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China Mail

ESTABLISHED 1845

No. 25,853

HONG KONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1928. PRICE, \$3.00 Per Month.

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Hong Kong's Only European Optician.
(Established Over Forty Years).
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Registered Optometrist by Canadian Govt. Exam.
(Personal Attention).

BRITISH BUDGET.

DOUBLE FORECAST SURPLUS.

DEATH DUTIES & WINDFALLS.

Reduction In Sugar Duties.

INCOME TAX NOT TO BE REDUCED.

Mr. Churchill said that last year's Budget had succeeded in spite of adverse circumstances.

There would have been a deficit for the third year in succession but for the continuance of the Government's economy campaign. Ten and a half million sterling had been saved by Government departments.

The standard rate of Income Tax is not to be reduced but the statutory allowances for children are raised to £50 for the first child and £50 for the others, compared with £36 and £27 at present, costing £2,100,000 this year.

Mr. Snowden and Mr. Lloyd George (both ex-Chancellors of the Exchequer) formally congratulated Mr. Churchill on a "very brilliant achievement" and "extremely fine performance," particularly in the relief of rates.

A tax of 1d. per gallon on imported motor spirits will be put into operation immediately.

In consequence of this tax British and American oil advanced on Wednesday in price, wholesale and retail, in all the leading brands of motor spirit by 4½d. and kerosene 4d. per gallon.

Heavy oils are not to be taxed.

The estimated surplus for 1928-29 is £18,741,000, which includes last year's appropriated surplus and other preliminary provision for rating reform.

Mr. Churchill spoke for three hours.

London, Yesterday. Mr. Winston Churchill Chancellor of the Exchequer made his Budget statement in the House of Commons this afternoon. He said the Budget of last year had succeeded in spite of adverse circumstances.

There would have been a deficit for the third year running but for the continuance of the Government's economy campaign. Ten and a half million sterling had been saved by government departments.

Encouraged by the success of last year he proposed to repeat the



Mr. Winston Churchill.

process and to save money whenever possible in administration.

They had done well during the year in the repayment of debt.

The new sinking fund had been raised to the unprecedented figure of £55,000,000.

In addition, the Budget had borne the payment of more than £15,000,000 for the accrued interest upon saving certificates.

The nominal debt of £7,527,000,000. He had found £28,000,000 more for the redemption of debt than had Mr. Snowden, the Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer had done in 1924.

The position for dealing with future conversions had been greatly improved by what had been accomplished in the past.

National Debt.

Dealing with the general treatment of the problem of the national debt, Mr. Churchill said he proposed to return to the policy instituted in Disraeli's Government by Sir Stafford Northcote and to establish a fixed debt charge. He proposed to put the figure at £25,000,000 yearly. Payment of this sum every year would extinguish the external and internal debt, including our debt to the United States without any addition to the present taxation, in a period of fifty years.

notes with the Bank of England note issue would take place this

HIGH TRIBUTE.

To Missionaries In China.

FROM ARCHBISHOP.

Compared With "Martyrology Of The Early Church."

London, Yesterday. The "extraordinarily high character and record of the missionaries in China," received a tribute from the Archbishop of Canterbury at a meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

His Grace said that some of the incidents and perils faced by men and women in recent years, were only paralleled in the martyrology of the early church.—Reuter.

"TWO VILLAINS."

CHINESE MERCHANT SUES A LOCAL BANK.

SPECIAL JURY SITS.

"The villains of the piece." This was how counsel referred to two Chinese brothers, concerned in an Original Jurisdiction case this morning and in referring to their surname, counsel called them the "two Foks."

Plaintiff is a Chinese merchant, 68 years of age and very deaf. Defendants are Thos. W. Simmons & Co., Ltd., a California firm formerly with an office at York-building, Chater-road, Hong Kong, and the Bank of Canton, Ltd., Hong Kong.

Counsel had advised plaintiff to use an ear trumpet in Court but plaintiff had replied that he had one and it only made a rumbling noise!

Four Barristers Engaged.

Mr. Fok Kam-chuen, principal of Fook Lee, a hardware firm in Hillier Street, asked for a declaration that no interest had passed to Thos. W. Simmons & Co., Ltd. in an assignment dated Feb. 22, 1921; and that no interest had passed to the Bank of Canton in an assignment dated May 21, 1921.

Mr. Eldon Potter, K.C. (instructed by Mr. E. Davidson of Messrs. Hastings, Dennis & Bowley) led for the plaintiff, for whom Mr. H. G. Sheldon also appeared. Mr. C. G. Alabaster, K.C. and Mr. F. C. Jenkins represented the defendants jointly.

Beer, Spirits and Betting Taxes.

He saw chance of recovery in revenue from beer, which had emboldened him to repeat his estimate of last year.

The revenue from spirits, on the other hand, must be expected to resume its continuous deficit.

The increased duty upon tobacco under Industries Safeguarding Act showed an increase. He expected a yield of £3,750,000 this year from the betting tax against £2,700,000 last year.

Tea Duties.

The yield of duties on tea and sugar in the coming year might be expected to respond to the slow forward movement of consuming power.

Customs and Excise.

Mr. Churchill proposed a few minor changes in customs and excise duties. He proposed to raise the excise duty on British wines, instituted last year from one shilling to 1/6d. per gallon, yielding £25,000 this year and £70,000 in a full year.

As from April 28, he proposed to levy a customs duty on mechanical lighters and excise duty on homemade lighters. This would yield £40,000 this year but its object was to preserve revenue on duty from matches, from which we got several millions yearly by curtailing the use of mechanical lighters.

Cinema Films.

He also proposed a very small adjustment in the customs duty on cinema films, in order to place British Empire films on the same footing as those produced abroad by British companies. This was estimated to yield about £350,000.

The Committee appointed under the Safeguarding of Industries procedure had recommended customs duty on buttons. Therefore buttons used for fastening or decorating apparel would be subject to duty of 38 1/8 per cent. ad valorem from April 28 but that would not mean that buttons already on imported garments would be charged. The duty was estimated to yield £100,000 this year and £200,000 in a full year.

Income tax which would

(Continued on Page 12.)

TSINANFU FALLS.

Surprise Capture By The Kuominchun.

DANGER IN SHANTUNG.

"Christian General" Steals March On Nationalists.

Shanghai, Today. Troops of Feng Yu-hsiang, the "Christian General's" Kuominchun, entered Tsinanfu yesterday afternoon from the south-west with practically no resistance by the demoralised Northern troops who are now expected to break up and flood the north of Shantung province with tens of thousands of deserters streaming across the country to Chefoo and Wei-hai-wei with resultant lawlessness and brigandage.

Feng Yu-hsiang's forces commanded by General Lu Chung-lin advanced through Cheng-tsing-hien. His entry into Tsinanfu ahead of Chiang Kai-shek, who is held up in the vicinity of Tai-an has caused considerable perturbation among the Nationalists.—Reuter.

The "Christian General" has probably stolen a march on Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists.

The former's advance is easier as he is facing Sun Chuan-fang whose army is scattering. Chiang Kai-shek has been held up on the Tientsin-Pukow Railway by Chang Tsung-chang's men.

Further news and earlier reports which lead up to the fall of Tsinanfu will be found below.

STUBBORN FIGHTING.

Northerners Holding Out At Tai-an.

Northern spokesmen claim that Tai-an, the last city before the Yellow River, is still holding out.

Cables from a Shanghai source refer to assaults on three consecutive days by the Nationalists on Tai-an.

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Special Jury Hears.

A special jury was empanelled, this being one of the few occasions on which a special jury sits. The jury comprised Messrs. P. Tester (foreman), Wong Kam-fuk, Wong Kwong-tin, J. H. Taggart, R. Rodgers, P. W. Parker and J. Oram Sheppard.

Proceeding to the estimate of taxation, the Chancellor of Exchequer said the customs and excise revenue moved forward by two or three millions yearly in accordance with the growth of population and the general maintenance of consuming power.

Beer, Spirits and Betting Taxes.

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Very Gross Fraud.

Certainly there had been very gross fraud, said Mr. Potter, but there was no charge against the plaintiff at all.

Mr. Potter submitted to His Lordship, the Chief Justice (Sir Henry Gollan) that paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 in the statement of defence to be true—were no answer to the case. He reserved his right to argue on the legal

objection.

Feiching is in approximately

the same latitude as Tai-an and 15

miles east of Tai-an. Sun Chuan-fang tried to hold the Kuominchun at Feiching.

The Northerners' line was both

thin and short, mainly astride the Tientsin-Pukow Railway and a little to the west of it.

Two Other Fronts.

According to a series of Chin

ese cables, the Northerners have been doing well on the other two fronts.

At the boundary between

Chihli and Honan provinces, the

Nationalist right and left wing have been transferred to the centre to re

inforce the drive on Tai-an.

The war area is now in Lat. 36

N, between the Grand Canal and

also slightly to the east of the

railway. The "Christian Gen-

eral's" men are on the west,

nearer the Grand Canal, and the

Nationalists under Chiang Kai-

shek in the railway zone.

Stubborn fighting on three

days is reported on a line

(south to north) from Kufow

and Szeihui (near Yen-chow)

to Tai-an, with heavy casualties

on both sides, states the

"Kung Shueung Yat Po."

Tawen-kow, 10 miles south of

Tai-an has been entered by the

Nationalist centre column.

Kuominchun Column.

Following the course of but

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Special Attention to stout Ladies who are desirous of regaining their youthful figure. Address—St. 1, Ashley Road, Ground Floor, Kowloon. (Back of Star Theatre).

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(Camb. Teachers' Diploma).

MISS GERTRUDE TURNER
(National Frodel Higher
Certificate).

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PIMPLES.

Pimples and all skin diseases are easily cured by Poo On Chinese Herb treatment.

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66, Queen's Road Central.

STANDARD TIME.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET IN
HONG KONG.

Sunrise and Sunset in Hong Kong during April, 1928, standard time for the 120th meridian, East of Greenwich, is as follows:

Sunrise.	Sunset.	a.m.	p.m.
25th	5.56	6.47	
26th	5.55	6.48	
27th	5.54	6.48	
28th	5.53	6.48	
29th	5.52	6.49	
30th	5.52	6.49	

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THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction

ON THURSDAY, the 26th April, 1928,
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at their Sales Room, Duddell Street.
A VALUABLE COLLECTION OF CURIOS.

Comprising—

Porcelain Vases, Jars, Bowls and Plates of Ancient Dynasties, Old Bamboo Ware, Jade Articles, Ivory Figures, Crystal Lions, Amber Beads, Agate, Bronze, Lacquer and Soap Stone Ware, Mandarin Coats and Skirts, Old Embroideries, and Blackwood Tables, Chairs, and Cabinets, etc., etc.

On View from Wednesday, the 25th April, 1928.

Catalogues will be issued.
Terms—Cash on Delivery.

LAMMERT BROS.,
Auctioneers,
Hong Kong, 21st April, 1928.

NOTICES.**G. R.****PUBLIC AUCTION.****PARTICULARS & CONDITIONS**

of the Sale by Public Auction to be held on MONDAY, the 30th day of April, 1928, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of one Lot of Crown Land at Mong Kok in the Colony of Hong Kong, for a term of 75 years with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 75 years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of State	Boundary No.	Locality	Boundary Measurements	Occupied Area	Annual Rent	Open Price
Kowloon Island, Lot No. 2111.	Junction of Nathan Road, along Mong Kok.	As per sale plan.	36,920 sq. ft.	92,300		

HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

DRAFT PROGRAMMES and ENTRY FORMS for the FOURTH EXTRA RACE MEETING to be held on SATURDAY, 5th May, 1928 (weather permitting) may be obtained at the Race Course, Hong Kong Club, and Causeway Bay Stables.

Entries will CLOSE at 6 p.m. on FRIDAY, 27th April, 1928. Hong Kong, 21st April, 1928.

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THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction

ON SATURDAY, the 28th April, 1928,

commencing at 11 a.m. at No. 1, Observatory Villas, Observatory Road, Kowloon.

A Quantity of
VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE.

Catalogues will be issued.
On View from Friday, the 27th April, 1928.

LAMMERT BROS.,
Auctioneers,
Hong Kong, 23rd April, 1928.

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K.561—No. 2, Saigon

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Man Street.

UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.**THE EASTERN EXTENSION
AUSTRALASIA & CHINA
TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.**

The following Unclaimed Telegrams are lying in the E. E. Telegraph Co. office, Hong Kong:—George Chen, Kremlin, from Macao.

Harlow, King Edward Hotel, from Shanghai.

Danglado, Oare Dickson, Merchant, from Alexandria.

Miss Yui, Box 373, from London.

Lobo, Hotel Savoy, from Macao.

Francis Greene, from London.

Rajawallikhan, Havildar No. 25, Military Police, from Quetta.

Rose Lau, from Saigon.

Mrs. Lo Yuk-shan, 38, Cheong On-str, Kowloon City, from Shang-hai.

E. A. LEGGATT.

H.K. CHAMBER.

(Continued from Page 2)

"Sunning" Piracy Commission, the Piracy Prevention Ordinance of 1914 has been repealed, anti-piracy measures being left more largely to the discretion of those concerned with shipping. It is gratifying to record that the good work of the Officers who recaptured the "Sunning" has been fully recognised, and that they received decorations with which they were recently invested by Your Excellency. (Applause).

The Chamber's Language School met with more success last year than in recent years and for almost the first time since its inception covered expenses. The benefits of a knowledge of the Chinese language have so frequently been stressed by my predecessors that there can be no need to enlarge thereon. Suffice it to say that the modern tendency of the Chinese merchant to speak English in no way lessens the advantage of a knowledge of the language of the country by foreign merchants. Even a superficial acquaintance must assuredly assist us to appreciate more fully the Chinese viewpoint thus facilitating business, smoothing over difficulties, and leading to a more sympathetic understanding. The possibility of transferring the Chamber's School to the Hong Kong University was fully considered, but it was found impossible for the average business man to attend classes at the University during forenoon office hours. It was therefore decided that the Chamber should continue to conduct the Chinese Language School on the lines followed heretofore. The University have kindly promised to assist us in the matter of inspection and examination.

With the growing needs of modern travel, the growth and development of Kowloon and the New Territories, and the certainty of road development in China in the not distant future, the need for a vehicular ferry across the Harbour is becoming increasingly apparent, both for transport of cargo and of private motor cars. The troubles in recent years have acted as a stimulus to cultivation of foodstuffs in the New Territories, and while this tends to make Hong Kong less dependent upon the Canton Delta, the cost of transporting from the New Territories to the Islands of Hong Kong is nearly if not quite as high as from West River ports, while the delay and many handlings are undesirable in respect of perishable goods. The importance to the port of keeping handling charges as low as possible in respect of cargo generally is self-evident.

Harbour Improvements. During the past year improved cross-harbour communication has been under consideration by the Government, and while a vehicular ferry cannot be expected to be self-supporting at the outset, it is apparent that modern facilities of transport are necessary if we are to maintain our position as the gateway to South China.

The tonnage of foreign-going shipping using the port, which dropped from 38,000,000 in 1924 to 28,000,000 in 1926, rose to nearly 37,000,000 in 1927, indicating a steady return of trade to Hong Kong. The number of vessels showed a proportionate increase. It is fitting to take this opportunity of congratulating the Harbour Office on its promptness in issuing its annual report. Reports from Government Departments lose much of their value and interest if they are not available until a considerable time after the period covered.

Although in the dark days of 1925-26, it was difficult to maintain confidence in the future of Hong Kong, shipping statistics, returns of Public Utility Companies, and the expanding Government revenues, all point to an era of renewed prosperity, and we look forward with hopefulness to the future. I cannot do better than recommend a careful study of the review given by His Excellency in Council when introducing the Colonial Budget for 1928. This survey, covering thirty years helps one to take "the long view," for it shows that Hong Kong has more than once safely weathered a time of stress. The review has been reprinted in full in the report as we considered members would appreciate having this valuable document made readily accessible.

Trade Statistics. The absence of Trade Statistics since September 1925 has been felt by merchants and others to be a handicap and a retrograde step in this one of the world's great ports. The decision to close the department was made at a time when economies had to be effected even at a sacrifice, and the opinion was expressed that the cost of compiling these statistics was excessive. During the coming year the new Committee will be appointed to consider the subject with the Gov-

ernment, and if this is done we shall no doubt receive a sympathetic hearing. Later on this afternoon the Committee will be glad to hear any comments members may wish to make on this subject.

Owing to the fact that the "Daily Bulletin" has ceased publication several members have suggested whether commercial telegrams could not be obtained and circulated by the Chamber. This matter is now being investigated and it is hoped to circularise all members in a few days with a definite proposition. The cost will not be great if adequate support is received.

The natural Harbour of Hong Kong is our principal asset and treasured possession. On that account we must see to it that everything pertaining to the control of the Harbour is managed in keeping with modern requirements and to the credit of Hong Kong. Your Committee therefore welcomed a letter from the Colonial Secretary in September, 1927, advising that the Government had under consideration a proposal to establish a Harbour Board for Hong Kong. The subject was subsequently discussed fully at a conference in November which the Harbour Master was authorised to attend. It is undoubtedly desirable to effect closer co-operation not only between Government and commercial interests, but also between the numerous Government departments connected with the control and development of the port. The only doubt which arose in the course of the Committee's discussions was whether a body with limited authority and limited terms of reference would be found effective.

Finances Sound.

In consequence of a vacancy on the Legislative Council caused by the resignation of Mr. H. W. Bird, Mr. D. G. M. Bernard, at that time the Chamber's representative, was nominated to a seat by His Excellency. At a general meeting of members on May 10 last the Hon. Mr. J. Owen Hughes was elected to represent the Chamber of Commerce. In his hands our interests are safely protected. (Applause).

The income and expense account and balance sheet for the year ending December 31, 1927, will be found on pages 18 to 21 of the report. From the balance sheet you will observe that a temporary overdraft was raised in order to avail of the opportunity of investing in the Hong Kong Government Six Per Cent. Public Works' Loan. This overdraft has now been paid off from proceeds of fixed deposits that have since matured. There was during the years 1926 and 1927 some loss of membership, but accessions during the past year have to some extent made good the wastage. Fortunately, the Chamber has been able to accumulate a reserve fund, amounting at the present time to \$65,000, which



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MISHIMA MARU Wednesday, 23rd May.

BOMBAY via Singapore, Penang, & Colombo.

SEIYO MARU Saturday, 28th April.

BINGO MARU Monday, 30th April.

SOUTH AMERICA (West Coast) via Japan, Honolulu, Los Angeles.

Mexico & Panama.

RAKUYO MARU Thursday, 31st May.

SOUTH AMERICA (East Coast) via Singapore, Cape Town & Ports.

HAKATA MARU Thursday, 10th May.

NEW YORK and/or BOSTON via PANAMA.

LIVERPOOL via Singapore, Colombo, Port Said & Ports.

TOYOKA MARU Tuesday, 16th May.

CALCUTTA via Singapore, Penang & Rangoon.

PENANG MARU Tuesday, 1st May.

NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA.

TANGO MARU Thursday, 17th May.

SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA.

YAMAGATA MARU (Moji direct). Thursday, 26th April.

SADO MARU Sunday, 29th April.

KITANO MARU Tuesday, 1st May.

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China

CAPT. FAURE (Cargo) 24th Apr.

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THE LIFEBOATS.

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SEVENTH IN CENTURY.

"Please express to the committee of management of the Royal National Life Boat Institution assembled to-day under your chairmanship our sincere appreciation of the loyal sentiments contained in their message. Watching as I do with unfailing interest the progress of the institution, I rejoice to know that its high traditions have been fully maintained during the past year, and I congratulate those to whom you will present awards for gallantry and for distinguished services."

The Prince of Wales read this message from the King at the annual meeting of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, over which he presided, at the Central Hall, Westminster. Appealing for help in the provision of motor life-boats, the Prince suggested that there might be generous persons who would like to present one of the boats under construction and give it a name selected by themselves, perhaps the name of some one who made the supreme sacrifice in the war. If so he would personally welcome such a gift.

A notable feature of the gathering was the presentation to Coxswain Henry Blogg, of Cromer, of a clasp to the institution's gold medal—the "V.C." of the service—which he previously won in 1917. Coxswain Blogg is the only man alive and the only coxswain in the history of the institution, as well as the first man since 1848, to receive the double award. Two other gold medals were presented—the first time since 1914 that three gold medals had been won in a year, and only the second time since 1851.

The Prince, in his address, said he regarded the lifeboat service as one in which the very best qualities of our race were expressed, not in one supreme effort as in war, but in a constant, year to year, day and night output of heroism, endurance, and humanity.

"Since my recent appointment to the high office of Master of the Merchant Navy and of the Fishing Fleets," he continued, "I am even prouder than before to be in the chair, because this second title gives me yet another link with this great institution and with its crews, which are the very pick of that splendid body of men—our fishermen" (cheers).

Whether they looked to the material output in the construction of new lifeboats and slipways, or to the value of the lives saved, the society was in the happy position of always returning a high rate of interest.

The work of the crews was carried out mostly in the darkness of winter nights at remote spots on the coast, and often nothing further was heard of it than a few lines in the local newspapers. It therefore required some imagination

to realise what the service really meant.

GALLANT MEDALLISTS.

Referring to the presence there of men who had specially distinguished themselves during the year, the Prince said that they came from widely different parts of the coast, and were therefore very typical, not of particular crews, but of the stamp of men to be found at every one of the institution's stations. This year they represented an exceptionally brilliant group of services.

They had "the rare pleasure" of welcoming three gold medallists. The three recipients were: Second Coxswain William Roberts and Captain Owen Jones of the Moelfre (Anglesey) lifeboat; for their work in connection with the rescue of the crew of the ketch Excel, on Oct. 21 last, and Coxswain Blogg, of Cromer, for the rescue of fifteen men from the Dutch steamer Georgia, on Nov. 22 last year. (Cheers.)

"Coxswain Blogg," said the Prince, "who, I can see, is known to all of you, also holds the V.C. of the service" for the magnificent rescue of the crew of the Swedish steamer Fernbo in January, 1917.

In the course of 104 years this double honour stood to the credit of only six other men—Colonel Sir William Hillary, the founder of the institution, who earned the gold medal three times, and five other men, all of whom were lieutenants in the Royal Navy and Coastguard officers. "Blogg's achievement," said the Prince, "is one which confers honour not only on himself, not only on the splendid crew which he leads, nor even only on the Norfolk stations which have a magnificent record in the annals of the lifeboat service, but on the whole service, whose spirit he so splendidly embodies" (cheers).

In a reference to Coxswain Fleming, of the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston lifeboat, who was awarded the silver medal, the Prince said, "He already holds the gold medal for splendid service to the Hopelyn in October, 1922, and the bronze medal earned on another occasion. In fact, it might seem as if Coxswain Fleming was a collector of medals, and he wanted to have the complete set—gold, silver, and bronze" (laughter).

Illustrating the endurance of the crew, the Prince mentioned that the Southwold rescue lasted thirteen hours, the Moelfre boat was out for seventeen hours, the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston crew were working for twenty-one hours, and the Cromer men for twenty-eight hours. Since that date the Ramsgate men, in the rescue of the crew of the trawler "Cyclone" of Boulogne, were fighting for the lives of the crew for upwards of thirty hours. During the year 354 lives in all were saved by lifeboats and shore boats.

SAVING HOMES.

"I personally," continued the Prince, "have never had the very unfortunate experience of being shipwrecked, but should this ever befall me, and I happen to be included in the number of saved, any doubt I might have had of the justification of this organisation would very quickly have flown. In fact, I should consider that the institution had never been more fortunate in its beneficial work than on the occasion when I was saved" (laughter). The institution not only rescued lives, but saved homes from the shipwreck of poverty and destitution which followed on the loss of the breadwinner.

At present some eighteen motor-lifeboats were being built—seven for England, six for Scotland, three for Ireland, and two for Wales. This was part of the institution's aim of transforming the fleet of pulling and sailing life-boats into one of motor-boats. The wisdom of this was obvious. Except in the cases of the Moelfre lifeboat, nearly all the most successful rescues had been carried out by motor-lifeboats. The motor-boat could work against wind and tide and could get to the wreck in half or a quarter of the time.

In making an appeal to the whole nation the Prince pointed out that the institution was providing and maintaining the whole of the life-boat service round our 5,000 miles of coast for a sum which, including capital expenditure, amounted to less than £250,000 a year—a very small fraction of the cost of one battleship.

Surely, he concluded, it was not too much to ask this maritime people to give the quarter of a million a year required for this great undertaking, the finest outcome of the service of the sea.

His Royal Highness then presented the awards, offering his personal congratulations to each man as he came forward to have the medal pinned to his breast. In ad-

dition to St. Mary's (Isles of Scilly), Dr. W. E. Ivers, of Bryher, Isles of Scilly, bronze medal; James T. Lethbridge, second coxswain, and T. H. Rokahr, motor mechanic, lifeboat at St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, bronze medals; Matthew Lethbridge, coxswain, lifeboat at St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, silver medal; Mr. Charles Jenkins, of Bryher, Isles of Scilly, silver medals; three other men, all named Jenkins, bronze medals.

Lowestoft (Suffolk).—Albert Spurrow, coxswain, Lowestoft life-boat, silver medal.

Moelfre (Anglesey).—William Williams, bowman, representing crew of lifeboat at Moelfre, Anglesey, each awarded bronze medal.

Cromer, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, and Southwold.—Frank Upcraft, coxswain life-boat at Southwold, bronze medal; George Balls, second coxswain, Cromer lifeboat, representing the crew, each awarded bronze medal.

The French Ambassador expressed gratitude on behalf of his country for the services of the institution's boats in saving French sailors. Other speakers were the Rt. Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P., Dame Caroline Bridgeman, Sir William Milligan, Sir Godfrey Baring, and Sir Richard Williams-Bulkeley.

WARSHIP EXPLOSION

EXPERTS PUZZLED AS TO CAUSE.

At the inquest, at Devonport, on Warrant Engineer Harry Edmund Kent, R.N., and James Geo. Brady, a boilermaker, who were killed by an explosion in H.M.S. "Courageous," the aircraft carrier, the verdict was accidental death, caused by the bursting of a rotor, there being no evidence as to the cause.

Engineer Lieut.-Commander W. J. Cole said that the accident occurred during the trial of a bilge pump. He could give no theory why the pump burst. There was no evidence of any faulty material.

Engineer Commander G. B. Allen was also unable to suggest any cause of the accident. There was no indication of any old fracture or flaw. It was his opinion that the disc had burst, the two parts going in different directions and damaging other parts of the machinery.

WARSHIPS IN PORT.

Warships in port this morning were as follow:

North wall basin: Wildswan;

South wall basin: Bruce, Molt;

East wall basin: Nessus, L3, L27;

North arm of Dockyard: Titania,

Marispol, Belgo; West wall Dock:

Petersfield, Durban; in Dockyard:

L16, L19, L20, L38; No. 8 buoy;

Verity, Wishart, No. 6 buoy;

Berwick; No. 7 buoy; Wivern; No. 9

baby; Wolverine, Veteran; No. 9

baby; Foxglove; No. 11 buoy;

Witherington; No. 12 buoy;

Iroquois; No. 13 buoy; Wanderer;

No. 18 buoy; Ruthenia; No. 19

baby; Somme; No. 25 buoy;

Khartoum; oil fuel jetties; France;

Koonloon anchorage; Portol.

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S. S.	Tons	From Hongkong About	Destination
MOREA	10,933	28th Apr.	Bombay, Marseilles & London.
LAHORE	5,252	7th May	Milos, London, Antwerp, R'dam & H'burg.
KASHMIR	6,905	12th May	Marseilles, London, Antwerp & Hull.
EDDINGTON	5,334	12th May	Straits, Colombo, Bombay & Karachi.
MALWA	10,933	15th May	Straits, Marseilles & London.
TAIPORE	5,273	31st May	Straits, Colombo & London.
JEPORE	6,318	2nd June	Milos, London, Antwerp, R'dam & H'burg.
DELTA	8,697	9th June	Marselles, London & Antwerp.
MIRZAPUR	6,715	10th June	Straits & London.
RANIPURA	16,001	23rd June	Bombay, Marseilles & London.
NOVARA	6,380	30th June	Marselles, London, Antwerp, Hull, Rotterdam, Hamburg.
KHYBER	9,114	7th July	Marselles, London, Antwerp & Hull.
RAWALPINDI	16,610	21st July	Bombay, Marseilles & London.
NANKIN	7,058	28th July	Milos, London, Antwerp, R'dam & H'burg.
KASHMIR	8,095	4th Aug.	Marselles, London & Antwerp.
RAJPUTANA	16,558	12th Aug.	Bombay, Marseilles & London.
NALDEERA	16,088	18th Aug.	Bombay, Marseilles & London.
KALYAN	9,144	15th Sept.	Marselles, London & Antwerp.

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TAKADA	6,949	25th Apr.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
TALAMDA	8,018	3rd May	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
*HATIFARA	7,054	17th May	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.
TALMA	10,000	26th May	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta.

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EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN SAILINGS (South)

*ARAFURA	6,000	4th May	Makassar, Sandakan, Thursday Island,
TANDA	6,950	1st June	Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney &
ST. ALBANS	4,500	29th June	Melbourne.

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SAILINGS TO SHANGHAI & JAPAN

MALWA	10,985	26th Apr.	Shanghai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
*ALIPORE	5,271	1st May	Moji & Kobe.
TALMA	10,000	3rd May	Amoy, Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Osaka.
TAKLIWA	7,936	7th May	Amoy, Moji, Kobe, Osaka & Yunnan.
TANDA	6,956	8th May	Moji, Kobe, Osaka & Yokohama.
*NOVARA	6,080	8th May	Shanghai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
*DEVANHA	8,165	11th May	Shanghai, Moji, Kobe & Osaka.
DELTA	8,097	11th May	Shanghai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
SANTHIA	7,754	22nd May	Amoy, Moji, Kobe & Osaka.
*MIRZAPUR	6,715	24th May	Shanghai, Moji & Kobe.
RANIPURA	16,001	25th May	Shanghai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
TIHLA	10,006	2nd June	Amoy, Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Osaka.
*NANKIN	7,053	6th June	Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
ST. ALBANS	4,500	5th June	Moji, Kobe, Osaka & Yokohama.
TAKADA	8,949	7th June	Amoy, Moji, Kobe & Osaka.
KHYBER	8,114	8th June	Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
BALAMBA	8,018	17th June	Amoy, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
*MELLORA	16,619	22nd June	Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
KATHIAR	8,963	3rd July	Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
ARAFUTA	8,986	6th July	Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
RAJPUTANA	16,558	10th July	Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
KALYAN	9,144	3rd Aug.	Shantou, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama.
TANDA	6,953	7th Aug.	Moji, Kobe, Osaka & Yokohama.

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H.K. CHAMBER.

(Continued from Page 3.)

Ages, we should find the squalor and discomfort of life intolerable. Our modern standards of comfort and the evolution of our present civilization have been mainly the result of labour, commerce and finance working in co-operation; and what we need for the future is an increasingly intelligent and skilful use of the apparatus for social progress which has already been organised all over the world by this co-operation of labour, commerce and finance. The better these elementary facts are understood, the less will be the menace of communism, which aims at suddenly destroying by "world-revolution" all that has been won for humanity by the slow growth of the existing social order and at the violent substitution of an artificial and arbitrary tyranny of the proletariat, the evil fruits of which mankind has watched with horror in Russia and in some parts of China, almost at our doors, as for example Swabia.

Appeal Of Communism.

Communism, however, makes a strong appeal to the "have-nots" and to the illiterate or semi-educated classes. It is, therefore, very important that all men of goodwill in all countries should unite to expose its fallacies and above all to show that the existing social system is capable of further orderly development for the benefit of the labourer no less than of the financial magnate. The aim should always be to increase the productivity per capita of the population, for this means a decrease in price-levels and therefore a greater purchasing power of wages and consequently a rise in the standard of living of the people. If progress is to be made in civilisation, it is necessary for the standard of living in every community to be raised continuously. Accordingly the policy of industrial management should be steadily directed towards an increase in the ratio of wages to the general level of prices. The successful prosecution of such a policy, as exemplified in recent years in the United States of America, affords a complete and practical refutation of Bolshevik and communist propaganda, not by words, but by facts. Therefore, situated as we are in Hong Kong, with the threat of communism very imminent and very real, I earnestly commend this matter to your study.

There is another subject of the utmost importance to the future of British trade in China, upon which I touched when I addressed you at your annual meeting on March 25, 1926. I now mention it again because very little progress has been made in the interval. It is in my opinion essential that Britons whose lives are likely to be spent in Hong Kong should acquire a competent knowledge of the Chinese language. Now since the 1st January, 1927, there has been established in the Hong Kong University a School of Chingese. It is attended by the cadet officers of the Hong Kong Government and several missionaries have studied there. But I regret to say that the School has received no support from the British mercantile community here resident. I again urge with all the strength I can that, unless an Englishman can speak Chinese, he is not likely to gain a real insight into Chinese manners and customs, and that in his own interest the British merchant who trades with the Chinese ought to learn the Chinese language.

Chinese Language.

I note what you have said, Mr. Chairman about the Chamber Language School and especially your statement that it was found impossible for the average business man to attend classes at the University during forenoon office hours. But I would observe that, so far as the University is concerned, classes in the afternoon could easily be arranged. The forenoon was proposed chiefly because, if a man is to do himself justice in the admittedly difficult task of learning Chinese, he ought to receive tuition at an hour when his faculties are fresher and keenest; that is to say in the morning before the day's work and the day's heat have tired him. Surely in this matter, as in so many others, where there is a will there is a way; and the advantages to be gained are so obvious, and the risks to be avoided so great, that I have no hesitation in pressing the Chamber to reconsider carefully this most important subject.

Furthermore, it is in my opinion absolutely necessary that a real attempt should be made to break down the social barriers which now exist between the European and Chinese communities here resident and that the leaders of both communities should unite to found both in Hong Kong and in Kowloon social and sports clubs which will be meeting places for the young men and the typhoons of all elements in the population of this Colony. So long as the Chinese and Europeans here resident al-

ways remain separate, there will be no real social and political union. This is the only way to bring about a real and lasting peace in this country.

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Osaka via Amoy, Moji & Kobe	CHAKSANG	Sun., 6th May at Noon
Osaka via Amoy, Moji & Kobe	FOOKSANG	Sat., 28th Apr. at 7 a.m.
Canton	FOOSHING	Wed., 25th Apr. at 6 p.m.
Straits & Calcutta	KUMSANG	Fri., 27th Apr. at 3 p.m.
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Tientsin	YUSANG	Tues., 1st May at 5 p.m.

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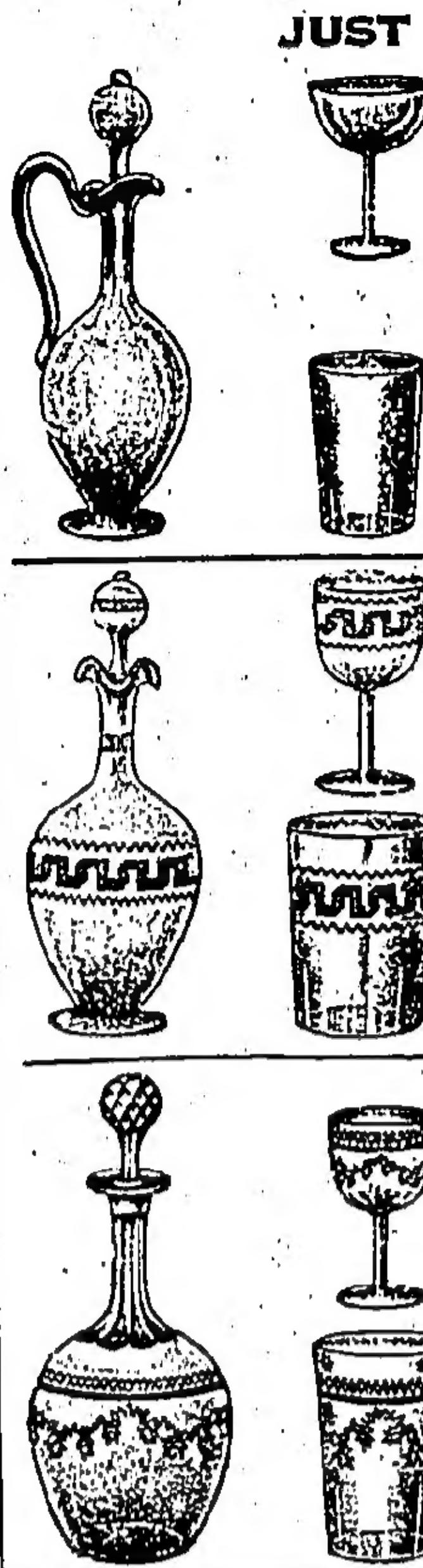
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DEATHS.

CHATER.—On March 23, Edith Mary, wife of Colonel Vernon Chater, at 24, Walton-street, London, S.W.

GILES.—On March 26, at The Bushes, Oatlands Chase, Weybridge, Bertram Giles, C.M.G., until recently His Majesty's Consul-General at Nanking, aged 54.

HILL.—On March 20, at Rickmansworth, Grace, widow of Rev. Isaac Hill, youngest daughter of the late William Denison, Knight of the Netherlands Lion, of Java, aged 91.

ISEMONGER.—On March 20, at Weymouth, Louisa Sophia, widow of E. E. Isemonger, formerly Colonial Treasurer, Straits Settlements, and daughter of the late Sir Benson Maxwell.

JONES.—On March 23, at Chiswick, Shem Jones, late Accountant of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, London, aged 67.

Hong Kong, Wednesday, April 25, 1928.

THE CHAMBER.

The wish is always father to the thought, but there was more than the expression of this sentiment behind the solid tone of optimism that pervaded the addresses delivered at the annual meeting of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon. In a word or two, "business" is indeed better and prospects are brighter than they have been for a few years. If this was not so, our representative commercial men would not have spoken as they did. The chairman, in his review of the past year's activities, touched upon many subjects of interest to the general public, and

Britain And Egypt. It is doubtful if any country has been more affected by the idea of so-called self-determination than

enter upon what is generally included in that idea. For centuries Egypt has been ruled in a very lax manner, and the views entertained by her so-called reformers have not tended to improve matters. The justice and firmness introduced into Egypt by the British in the exercise of their suzerainty has been all to the good of the Egyptians and particularly to the thousands of foreigners resident there. But the Egyptians or rather the agitating element within their midst, misled by self-determination heroes, are to-day noisily opposing what in their hearts they know to be the best policy for their country, simply because it does not emanate from themselves. The British would be very glad to see the Egyptians rule their country according to the precepts of justice and equity, but they have much too big a financial stake in the country and the Sudan to look on mildly while the lawlessness among the Egyptians set about doing injury to themselves, their country and to the many foreigners in their midst. Therefore no unprejudiced person, no matter how much he may feel disposed to sympathise with a people's right to determine their own destiny, (as far as they can determine it) can honestly say that the British Government in opposing the inadequate laws that Egyptian legislators are at present considering are going beyond their rights in Egypt.

We have the controlling power in the Suez Canal besides having other vast interests in Egypt and the Sudan, and it is therefore incumbent upon us to see that the justice and equity for which we stand is not thwarted by the ill-considered and selfish agitators that to-day would do incalculable harm to the country.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A KOWLOON PETITION.

To the Editor of the "China Mail."

Sir,—As a Kowloon resident, will you allow me to express through your columns my personal appreciation (and that of my family) of the most able leading article you published yesterday dealing with the children's playground difficulty at Kowloon. I fully agree with what you say regarding it being the Government's duty to find a site suitable for a playground somewhere near Kowloon Point. The cry of "too late" is, in my mind, nonsensical, as is the opinion expressed in a paper this morning that application should have been made for a site twenty or thirty years ago. At that time Kowloon Point was a waste and no-one then had any idea of the wonderful growth that was to take place.

In expressing my appreciation I advance the suggestion that you keep "pegging away" in your columns on this matter of a playground for our children. It is not a question of the Government being unable to find one because there does not happen to be one sticking right under their noses.

You can do good work in this direction and may succeed where the K.R.A. (which of course is not representative of Kowloon residents or Kowloon opinion) has failed.

I would also suggest that if the Government does not adopt a reasonable attitude at to-morrow's meeting and promises to try and do something, you should conduct a petition throughout Kowloon praying for the acquisition of a suitable site for a children's playground somewhere within the residential area of Tsimshau Tsui.

The site you suggest, where the military are now, would be ideal, and would serve a more useful purpose as a playground than as it is now.

Besides, who wants the soldiers' right in the middle of the town? I am sure they would prefer to be a little further out where they would have more room for sports, etc.

In connection with the petition which I have suggested to you and which I am sure all Kowloon residents would sign, I take it that this could be forwarded to the Secretary of State if the Government persists in maintaining its queer "too-late" attitude.

Yours, etc.,

KOWLOON RESIDENT.

Hong Kong, April 25, '28.

[The suggestion of a Petition is certainly feasible and might prove an effective one. We will give it further consideration after it is known what happens at the meeting of the Legislative Council tomorrow.—Editor, "China Mail."]

FOOLISH SOLDIERS.

To the Editor of the "China Mail."

Sir,—The frequency with which soldiers of the Queen's Regiment have been appearing in the local police court of late on charges of breaking shop windows certainly leads one to surmise that all is not well with the internal affairs of

that regiment. There is, however, nothing to be gained by making accusations against the Queen's Regiment. It is of course the

INSPECTOR BROWN.

LEAVING COLONY ON RETIREMENT.

15 YEARS' SERVICE.

Having retired from the Hong Kong Police Force after fifteen and a half years' service, Sub-Inspector A. E. T. Brown is leaving the Colony by the s.s. "Morea" on Saturday.

Inspector Brown joined the Water Police on October 30, 1912, and has been afloat on harbour duties for practically the whole of the period of his service in that department of the Police Force. Previous to joining the Police, Mr. Brown had been for over 20 years in the Navy, enlisting when he was quite a young lad. His last ship was H.M.S. "Newcastle" on which he served on the China Station prior to transferring to the Police Force.

Mr. Brown was promoted to the rank of Sub-Inspector in February 1924. On returning Home he intends settling down in London.

MORRISON HALL.

FOUNDATION STONE OF NEW WING LAID.

DR. T. W. PEARCE.

Dr. T. W. Pearce yesterday, in the presence of a large gathering, laid the foundation stone of the west wing of Morrison Hall at the Hong Kong University.

The ceremony was made the occasion of a formal farewell to Dr. Pearce who is leaving for Home on retirement on Saturday.

Mr. Justice J. R. Wood, presided and spoke at some length on the work and future of Morrison Hall. He also expressed the gratitude and thanks of all assembled there to Dr. Pearce for the wonderful work which he had done during more than forty years in the Colony.

Other speakers were Dr. E. A. Middleton Smith, who spoke on behalf of the University of the very deep debt of gratitude which that institution owed to Dr. Pearce; Dr. S. W. Tso, on behalf of the Chinese community; The Rev. J. Kirk Macdonachie who spoke of the Government's duty to find a site suitable for a playground somewhere near Kowloon Point. The cry of "too late" is, in my mind, nonsensical, as is the opinion expressed in a paper this morning that application should have been made for a site twenty or thirty years ago. At that time Kowloon Point was a waste and no-one then had any idea of the wonderful growth that was to take place.

In expressing my appreciation I advance the suggestion that you keep "pegging away" in your columns on this matter of a playground for our children. It is not a question of the Government being unable to find one because there does not happen to be one sticking right under their noses.

You can do good work in this direction and may succeed where the K.R.A. (which of course is not representative of Kowloon residents or Kowloon opinion) has failed.

Mr. Schofield remanded the case till next Tuesday afternoon, allowing him in the sum of \$250.

CANTON AVIATION.

Of the

BRITISH BUDGET.

(Continued From Page 1.)

remain at the existing standard rate of 4% in the £ would yield £295,000,000. He estimated that the gross revenue on the existing basis of taxation, with the aforementioned material changes at £812,497,000, making a prospective surplus of £6,302,000.

The Chancellor then entered upon what is described as the most controversial part of his speech.

He said an unsatisfactory picture was presented by the heavy British industries, in which unemployment taxation or "Rates," had directly increased the cost of production and affected the competing power of these industries at home and abroad. According to the latest ascents everyone of the colliery districts showed a net loss of working and yet the coal industry was being required to pay several millions a year in Local Government taxation. Frequently depressed industries left a heavily taxed arena and thus threw an increased burden of taxation on the industries remaining. Some relief of production from local taxation was urgently needed.

A Mass Manoeuvre.

He had therefore proposed to the Prime Minister that as a concluding financial effort in this Parliament, he should try to form a mass manoeuvre of between twenty and thirty millions sterling yearly for a great operation upon Local Government taxation. The Government had completed their plans and legislation required for this purpose must inevitably become the most important measure of its kind during the last session. He had to find a substantial amount of new revenue to carry out the policy. He did not suppose any one would have much doubt whether we ought to do it. During the 19th century the industrial power of this country had rested on the basis of the coal industry but the 20th century had seen us becoming increasingly dependent upon imported liquid fuel, scarcely any of which was found inside the British Empire.

New Duty on Oil.

The Government had therefore decided to impose a new duty of fourpence per gallon on certain kinds of imported oil. The New tax would be confined to the lighter hydrocarbon oils including petrol but excluding heavy oils and lubricating oil. The tax would be imposed as from to-morrow, and was estimated to yield £14,000,000 this year and £17,500,000 in 1929.

Sugar Duty Reduced.

In order to balance the extra fiscal burden, which the tax on kerosene might throw upon the consumer, Mr. Churchill proposed to reduce the existing duties on sugar. The duty on all imported sugar would be reduced by the amount equivalent to a farthing in the pound in the retail price. By this means it was possible also to afford relief to British refiners, who had long complained that while the Empire sugar producer had been assisted by preference and when the home-grown beet industry had been helped, British refiners had been left to engage without assistance in the struggle against competitors domestic and foreign. The reduction of the duty was designed to encourage the importation of raw sugar which would undergo refining in this country rather than the importation of white sugar refined abroad.

British Wireless Service.

Popular Interest in the Budget.

London, Yesterday. The House of Commons was crowded this morning, and full of animation in anticipation of Mr. Churchill's Budget speech.

Public interest was shown by the long queues at all the public entrances to the House some time before the members met.

A number of banking and other financial authorities occupied seats in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery.

The tea duty, which is unchanged, was also agreed to in the remaining budget resolutions, continuing the existing taxes and authorising new ones.

A Half-Penny Per Foot.

The Government decision to increase the duty on foreign films by a half-penny a foot is estimated to produce £45,000.

Expenditure And Revenue.

In the House of Commons Mr. Churchill balanced his budget according to the new system of accounting.

The expenditure was £727,381,000 and the revenue £761,083,000, leaving a gross total and a prospective surplus of £37,702,000 from which he would take £19,200,000 for various remissions of taxes, leaving a margin of £4,502,000 to be carried forward in a suspensory fund (plus), to which would be added last year's surplus of £1,239,000, making a total Suspensory Fund of £18,741,000, which would be used to meet ordinary contingencies in 1928 or

POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS BY THE HON. CAPT. SUPERINTENDENT.

CHINESE COMPANY.

All ranks of the Chinese Company will parade at the Central Police Station at 5.30 p.m. sharp on Wednesday, April 26; recruits for Squad Drill, and advanced men for Rifle Exercises and Instruction in the care of Arms under Sergeant R. J. Hunt. Dress—Blu Uniform, Cap with white cover, Bell and Frog (no truncheon).

Indian Company. Strength.—The following have enrolled in the Indian Company on April 20:—Constables R.230 Hassan Din, R.240 Amir Bux.

Squad Drill.—Recruits will parade at Central Police Station on Wednesday, April 26, for Squad Drill under Sgt. Hunt. Fall in at 5.30 p.m. sharp.

Flying Squad. The weekly instructional patrol of the Hong Kong section will take place on Thursday, April 26. Fall in at Central Police Station at 5.15 p.m. sharp. Dress—Khaki.

Sharpshooters' Company.

Revolver Practice will be carried out at the Kennedy-road Range on Wednesday, May 2, at 5 p.m. Dress—Must. Members will assemble on the Range with their own revolvers, no belts or pouches will be required.

Summer Uniform. Members of the Chinese and Indian Companies are warned to get their summer uniform ready; those who are not in possession of same will apply to their respective Equipment Officer.

BETTY BRONSON.

STARS IN NEW PICTURE AT QUEEN'S.

Miss Betty Bronson is to be seen again at the Queen's Theatre in a new picture called "Everybody's Acting." Her superb work in "A Kiss for Cinderella" and "Peter Pan" will be remembered by all cineractors. In "Everybody's Acting" she has not such a difficult role, but her performance maintains the high level we have come to expect from the clever little lady. The film is about a group of theatrical performers who adopt, with the assistance of a newspaper editor, the baby of one of their number who is shot by a drunken husband. They bring her up carefully until the time she falls in love. In order to impress the girl's prospective mother-in-law, they act the part of rich and titled folk. Betty, however, as the girl, "spills the beans," and man-in-law-to-be is very angry. Everything works out capitally in the end, however, "Everybody's Acting" is a pleasing picture and is well supported by a Hal Roach comedy and an interesting news gazette.

A FREE RIDE.

For defrauding the administration of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, a small Chinese youth was fined \$10, with the alternative of 6 days' hard labour, at the Kowloon Magistracy, this morning.

Mr. Winyard, traffic Inspector of the K.C.R., in prosecuting, stated that the defendant was found on the steps of a 3rd class car, when nearing Taipo station, apparently endeavouring to avoid payment. The defendant admitted having no money.

A 15-year-old Chinese girl named Kwok Fuk-yeo, living at No. 119, Queen's-road West, attempted to commit suicide yesterday afternoon by jumping into the harbour from the Praya at Kennedy-town. She was rescued and removed to the Government Civil Hospital suffering from the effects of immersion.

supplementary demands of local authorities.—Reuter.

The Chancellor's Difficulties.

Mr. Churchill said he could not recall any budget which had succeeded despite so many adverse factors. He had to face last year nearly £25,000,000 shortage in revenue or additional expense, including £3,000,000 for Shanghai, £2,500,000 ordinary supplementary estimates; £3,000,000 loss on excess profits duty, which actually yielded a minus quantity of £3,000,000 as shortage on the betting tax and £5,000,000 failure in the revenue on beer.

Favourable Comment.

"Courageous, bold, solid and constructive" are among the adjectives which the morning papers apply to the Budget, the chief surprise of which has been the "plum" offered to parents in the increasing Income Tax in the rebate on the children allowances.

Mr. Churchill is generally congratulated on concentrating on an effort to lift the burden of the rates from depressed industries. There is some criticism on the petrol tax.—Reuter.

TSINANFU FALLS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

No Help From Wu-Han.

Hankow, Yesterday. No active support has yet been given by General Cheng Chien and General Poi Chung-hsi (the local, Wu-Han, Nationalist leaders) to the Nationalist ally, Feng Yu-hsiang, the "Christian General."

Both these Generals are reported to be at Changsha, in Hunan. They were recently visited by representatives of the Szechuan General, Yang Sen.—British Naval Wireless.

[Note: Yang Sen has an independent government. Discussion between his emissaries and the Wu-Han Nationalists may point to an understanding between them instead of an alliance between Wu-Han and the "Christian General."]

Tsinanfu's Fate.

Peking, Yesterday.

The capture of Tsinanfu by the Nationalist Allies is expected momentarily, the Northern forces in Shantung appearing to be incapable of offering any resistance to Feng Yu-hsiang's and Chiang Kai-shek's victorious advance.

Fifteen thousand survivors of Sun Chuan-fung's Northern Army are falling back from Ningyang, endeavouring to reach Tschow and are planning to join up with the Manchurian forces, but seemingly have again been cut off from the north by the Nationalist occupation of Tsian.

Streams of Deserters?

Chinese reports that Chang Tsung-chang chartered a number of vessels at Lungkow, presumably for evacuation purposes, lend colour to the belief that the north of Shantung province will shortly be flooded with thousands of deserters streaming across the country to Lungkow, Chefoo and Wei-hai-wei with the resultant outbreak of disorder and brigandage.—Reuter.

The Yellow River.

[The Northern line of retreat has been from Ningyang up to Tai-an, then to Tsinanfu, which is on the southern bank of the Yellow River.

Except for small batches of raiders, there are no Nationalist or Kuomintang troops in Shantung north of the Yellow River. Tschow is north of the Yellow River; near the Chihli-Shantung frontier and is the southernmost extremity of a line running almost direct from north to south, which the Peking Government has ordered to be prepared for defence.

Retreat Cut Off?

The north-east of Shantung is away from the war zone, by reason of its geographical position—not on the road to Peking—and this is the area which, it is feared may be over-run by demoralised or disbanded Northern troops.

The reference to chartering of ships may point to the Northern General Chang Tsung-chang anticipating his being cut off from retreat northward to Peking, leaving the sea as the only course of getting out.]

"ANNIE LAURIE."

LILLIAN GISH IN A NEW FILM.

A romance of the Scottish Highlands, "Annie Laurie," with Lillian Gish in the leading role, will be the big picture at the Queen's Theatre from Sunday to Tuesday next, according to a special advertisement in this issue. Famous old castles, including historic Maxwellton, were reproduced for the picture. Hordes of killed warriors are seen in battle, sleek courtiers are seen plotting for power—and through it runs the story of the love of Annie Laurie. Norman Kerry is seen as the hero, the fighting chief of a famous clan. Hobart Bosworth is the grim "Wolf of Glenco." Brandon Hurst is the villainous rival and Creighton Hale the treacherous Donald. David Torrence, Russell Simpson, Patrill Avery, Joseph Striker and other well known players are cast under the direction of John S. Robertson. The story is based on fact and fiction, concerning the Glencoe Massacre. Josephine Lovett, the author, utilised this tragic episode in history as the background for a stirring drama of the screen.

Whilst proceeding to Aberdeen on Monday with a cargo of rags for the paper mills, trading junk No. 401-A was caught, in a sudden squall when passing Taihauwan at 1 p.m. The boat was capsized, and the two occupants of the junk were thrown into the harbour. They clung to the bottom of the upturned craft and succeeded in keeping afloat until they were picked up by junk No. 3789-H.A., the crew of which righted the capsized junk and towed it to Aberdeen. All the

BOMBAY MILLS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

117,000 WORKERS NOW ON STRIKE.

PRODUCTION CEASES.

Bombay, Yesterday. The mill strike has still further extended, and 117,000 operatives are now out. Production has ceased except in a few mills in outlying districts.—Reuter.

DRINKERS' EYES.

BLINDING EFFECT OF INDULGENCE.

WOOD ALCOHOL.

Blindness is not only due to drinking wood alcohol, but it is not infrequently the result of over indulgence in the legitimate and normal variety, according to Miss L. M. Smith Clark, ophthalmic adviser to the British Ministry of Pensions. In the continental edition of the London "Daily Mail," she writes:

"Some of the primary effects displayed by alcoholic poisoning are a moist and red eye with inflamed and puffy eye-lids, which appear in acute as well as chronic overindulgence. In chronic poisoning there is, further, a weakness of the upper eyelids, and the eyes lose their natural sensitiveness, so that they do not wash themselves out, and the blinking of the eyelids, which assists this washing, is almost entirely abolished, thereby increasing the redness of the eye."

"We have all noticed the fixed un-winking stare of the hard drinker when sober as well as drunk. The most vital damage, however, is the inflammation of the central fibres of the optic nerve, causing consequent impairment of vision. The arteries of the eye, like the other blood-vessels of the body, become brittle and break, causing effusion of blood, which diminishes the vision further.

"Where tobacco and alcohol are immoderately indulged in, the vision of both eyes becomes misty, and the sufferer usually attributes this to his eyesight declining, and thinks that he requires glasses. In fact, the visual acuity is reduced to about a half of normal, and reading of small print and performing fine work become very difficult.

The danger is that the sufferer goes to an optician for glasses, which, by giving temporary relief, obscure the real cause of the condition.

Recovery May Be Complete.

"If attended to in time, a complete recovery may be obtained. However sympathetic the ophthalmic surgeon may feel, he is bound to order a sensible reduction in the enjoyment of alcohol and tobacco.

"Of course, the patient's idiosyncrasies must be taken into account. Where a person is highly susceptible to the effects of small quantities of alcohol, it is advisable to enforce complete abstinence. Further, the matter of fresh air, sufficient sleep, and proper diet should be carefully advised upon. It may even be necessary to treat with drugs, but that is a matter for skilled hands to direct. Under proper treatment a recovery may be looked for in one to three months.

"Acute consequences from alcoholic indulgence are more frequently met with in America, where Prohibition has given rise to the consumption of wood alcohol, immature whisky, and quack medicines.

"The victim suffers from headache; his pupils are dilated and he may become blind in both eyes, the blindness setting in immediately or within a few days. The blindness may improve temporarily, but generally relapses into permanent blindness. It is due to the inflammation and consequent destruction of the optic nerve and the retina of the eye.

Chinese constable No. 371, Li Chik, attached to No. 7, Police Station, has been arrested at the instance of the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs for harbouring Yau Yee-lai, a girl under the age of 21.

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JOHN E. WALKER, Secy.

China Bank Building, Queen's Road,

Hong Kong, April 25, 1928.

Shadows Before

COMING EVENTS ANNOUNCED IN THE "MAIL."

To-day—Queen's Theatre; "Everybody's Acting."

To-day—World Theatre; "The Big Parade," 2.30, 6.30, 9.15 p.m.

To-day—Star Theatre; "The General."

To-day—Concert at Club Lusitano by Prof. G. Cattaneo.

April 26—St. Peter's Club concert in St. John's Cathedral Hall.

April 26-28—Queen's Theatre; "The Cohens and Kelly's in Paris."

April 26-28—Star Theatre; "Footloose Widows."

April 28-30—Star Theatre; "A Man's Past."

April 29-30—World Theatre; "The Valley of Hell."

April 30—Cheer "O. Y.M.C.A. dance, at Helena May Institute.

May 1-2—World Theatre; "The Sap."

May 1-2—Star Theatre; "The Manicure Girl."

May 2-5—Queen's Theatre; "The Battles of Coronel and Falkland Islands."

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LOCAL AND GENERAL SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Gillian Looker, the baby daughter of Mr. H. W. Looker, M.P., in Hyde Park, on March 22, was the subject of a picture in the "Daily Sketch."

The marriage arranged between Mr. David Keawick and Miss Nony Barbara Pease was to take place on April 20 at St. Mary-the-Virgin, Hambleden, Henley-on-Thames.

The Japanese Ambassador and Baroness Matsui were among the guests of the Spanish Ambassador and the Marquess de Merry del Val at dinner at the Embassy on March 22.

Sir Maurice de Bunsen is to be one of the three representatives of the Royal Geographical Society at the centenary celebrations in Berlin, during May 24-26, of the Gesellschaft für Erdkunde.

Bak Poy Ghee, 35, laundry proprietor, who was committed from East Ham on a charge of harbouring two Chinese whom he had reason to believe had landed without leave, was found not guilty at the Old Bailey and discharged.

The late Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., of Tiptonwood, Crawley Down, lately chairman of the East India Railway Co., and a member or chairman of several Commissions on Colonial currencies, left estate valued at £71,132.

Found loitering on the staircase of Nos. 3 and 4 Gillies Avenue, Hung Hom, at midnight on Monday, a Chinese was charged before Mr. W. Schofield at the Kowloon Magistracy yesterday and received two months' hard labour. He had a chisel in his possession when arrested.

Cinema-goers are reminded that owing to the exceptional length of the film, only three performances of "The Big Parade" can be given daily, and these start promptly at 2.30, 5.30 and 9.15 p.m. "The Big Parade" will be screened at the World Theatre until Saturday, and it is a picture well worth seeing twice.

The Right Hon. Sir John Tilley, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Tokyo, had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on March 26, and Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. E. Lawrence, Commanding 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, had the honour of being received by His Majesty on the same day.

The Persian Minister held a reception on March 22 on the occasion of the Persian New Year. Among the many guests were the Japanese Ambassador and Baroness Matsui, the Siamese Minister, the Chinese Charge d'Affaires and Mme. Wei-cheng Chen, Sir Henri and Lady Deterding, Sir Denison Ross, and Mrs. Alec Tweedie.

The marriage arranged between Mr. H. J. Leigh-Clare, son of the late Vice-Chancellor O. Leigh-Clare and Mrs. Leigh-Clare, of 60, Lansdowne-road, London, W.11, and Dorothy, second daughter of Mr. John Strachan, general manager, F.M.S. Railways, and of Mrs. Strachan, of Greatash, Chislehurst, Kent, took place on March 23 in Colombo.

The King held a Council at Buckingham Palace on March 22 and pricked a list of Sheriffs of England and Wales for the ensuing year. Among those present at the Council was Sir Maurice de Bunsen and one of the Sheriffs appointed by the King was that for Sussex, Sir Robert Molesworth Kindersley, of Plow Hatch, Sharpthorne, G.B.E.

Before Mr. W. Schofield at the Kowloon Magistracy yesterday, an amah was charged with the theft of a wrist watch from her former mistress at No. 4 Tung, High-street, Mongkok. The defendant denied stealing the watch, and said that a friend of hers gave it to her to take to a watchmaker to be repaired. She was bound over in the sum of \$100.

The engagement is announced between Cecil Hubert Eldridge, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge, of Ormonde-road, Branksome Park, Bournemouth, and Dorothy Mary, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Bourchier, R.A.C., and Mrs. Bourchier, of The Maples, Lillington-avenue, Leamington Spa.

The Egyptian Charge d'Affaires (owing to the accepted resignation of the Egyptian Minister) held a reception on March 26 at the Legation, in South Audley-street, in honour of the 60th Birthday of the King of Egypt. Among those who accepted invitations were the Siamese Minister, the Chinese Charge d'Affaires and Mme. Wei-cheng Chen, Sir Denison Ross and Mrs. Alec Tweedie.

Brussels, Yesterday.—General Wrangel is very weak. His condition causes much anxiety.—Reuter.

New York, Yesterday.—The next meeting of the Institute of Pacific Relations will be held at Kyoto in November, 1929.—Reuter.

It is reported that Mr. Koo Ying-fun (ex-Minister of Finance at Canton) is on a vacation trip to America. Mr. Tang Chao-yuan and Mr. Li Pan are also making the trip.

The Petrie medal of the University of London distinguished work in Archaeology has been awarded to Sir Aurel Stein, K.C.I.E., D.Litt., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.B.A.

A handbag containing \$30 in notes and other small articles, was on Monday afternoon snatched from a Chinese woman by a sneak thief in Bonham-road. He got away with the booty.

Charged before Mr. W. Schofield at the Kowloon Magistracy yesterday with landing on Stonecutters without permission, a Chinese hawker was fined \$25, or, in default, two weeks' hard labour.

A Sanitary Board coolie was yesterday charged before Mr. W. Schofield at the Kowloon Magistracy for assaulting a Chinese occupying a cubicle in the same house as the defendant. Both parties were bound over in the sum of \$60 each to keep the peace for six months.



NANCY WALLER, K.N.C.

Isacco Gabaldon, resident Commissioner of the Philippines Islands in Washington, D. C., who has resigned his seat in order that he might return to his native land to fight for the freedom of his people. The Commissioner holds that every dollar of American investment in the Philippines "is an additional nail in the coffin of our independence." Gabaldon has been elected a member of the Philippine legislature and in an address to Congress before his resignation was handed in beseeched them to give the Philippines their independence.

The marriage arranged between Mr. H. J. Leigh-Clare, son of the late Vice-Chancellor O. Leigh-Clare and Mrs. Leigh-Clare, of 60, Lansdowne-road, London, W.11, and Dorothy, second daughter of Mr. John Strachan, general manager, F.M.S. Railways, and of Mrs. Strachan, of Greatash, Chislehurst, Kent, took place on March 23 in Colombo.

The King held a Council at Buckingham Palace on March 22 and pricked a list of Sheriffs of England and Wales for the ensuing year. Among those present at the Council was Sir Maurice de Bunsen and one of the Sheriffs appointed by the King was that for Sussex, Sir Robert Molesworth Kindersley, of Plow Hatch, Sharpthorne, G.B.E.

Lord Gort, V.C., back from China, is now on military duty at Colchester, and has given orders for his cutter, "Carlotta," to be sent to Burnham, where he can have some week-end cruising. He was on March 27 a witness to the marriage of Mr. George Gordon Medlicott Vereker, M.C., a member of a branch of his family, to Bjarolie, the daughter of the late Colonel H. H. Mulliner and Mrs. Mulliner. In August, when the Solent season will be in full swing, "Carlotta," which has had a motor installed, will return to Cowes.

Great excitement was caused in Society circles in Amsterdam by the news that Madame Van Eggen, a niece of Sir Henry Deterding (Director-General of the Royal Dutch Oil Company) and the only woman member of the Stock Exchange, had been found at her home suffering from a bullet wound in the head and her husband, a well-known and prominent rubber merchant, dead from a revolver shot. The bullet which injured her was fired in behalf of an Indian constable named Hayat Mohamed who was charged with demanding a bribe of 20 cents from a Chinese hawk. Mr. Lindell, in passing sentence of three months' hard labour, said that this type of offence was extraordinarily difficult to detect, and when detected must be punished severely.

At the Central Magistracy yesterday afternoon, Mr. Leo Almada entered a plea of guilty in behalf of an Indian constable named Hayat Mohamed who was charged with demanding a bribe of 20 cents from a Chinese hawk. Mr. Lindell, in passing sentence of three months' hard labour, said that this type of offence was ex-

Mme. de Fleurieu and Mme. de Fleurieu are leaving London for the South of France on March 29 and will be away for about five weeks.

Commissioner Charles Duce, of the Salvation Army, for 40 years a missionary officer in Japan, and elsewhere, was buried on March 23 at Abney Park Cemetery.

The French Ambassador and Mme. de Fleurieu gave a dinner party at the Embassy on March 27, their guests including the Japanese Ambassador and Baroness Matsui.

The engagement is announced of Leslie Charles Mickewright, of Peleple Valley Estate, Kota Tinggi, Johore, to Muriel Edythe Newton Mayson, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Mayson, of Singapore.

A sneak thief approached a Chinese woman from behind whilst she was walking in Wyndham-street on Monday afternoon, and snatched from her a pair of gold earrings worth \$75. The woman raised an alarm, but the thief succeeded in getting away before help could reach his victim.

A bag containing \$340 was yesterday stolen from a Chinese passenger soon after he had boarded the s.s. "Sui An." He went on to the wharf to report his loss and found a detective detailing a man who had the bag in his possession. The thief was taken to the Police Station.

Sir Denison Ross was host and Mrs. Francis Ayacough hostess at the second conversation of the season of the After-Dinner Club, which was held at the New Burlington Galleries on March 28. The speakers included Brigadier-General the Hon. C. G. Bruce, Lieutenant-Colonel P. T. Etherton, and Air Commodore Samson.

The N.Y.K. film, "To the Sunny East," was shown at the Scala Theatre, Charlotte-street, London, W.1, on March 29. The film was prepared by a British firm, who sent out their own operators to Japan. In addition to depicting life aboard the steamers, it includes some very interesting pictures of various Japanese industries.

A "Standard" writer, corrected as to the derivation of an Eastern word he had used, says:—I have no doubt the common Japanese word for a foreign dog, "kami," which I generally understood to descend from the "come here" addressed to this dog by the first English traveler to Japan accompanied by one, might be traced to some classic Chinese origin.

At the Thames Police Court on March 23, William Hi, 53, described as a British subject, was charged with illegally importing 56 revolvers and 5,400 cartridges. An assistant preventive officer of Customs and Excise, said that he found the contraband in a narrow compartment behind a linen locker and the steel hull of the ship. Accused was remanded in custody.

The Japanese Ambassador and Baroness Matsui entertained at dinner at 10, Grosvenor-square, on March 26. Among their guests were the Dowager Lady Swaythling, Sir John and Lady Tilley, Sir Maurice de Bunsen, Sir Charles and Lady Addis, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Lieutenant-Colonel the Marquis Mayeda, Mr. and Mrs. Juichi Tsushima, and Captain Koichi Shiozawa.

The Ranees of Sarawak is one of the godmothers of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Nedell, who are playing leading parts in "Square Crooks" at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London. The christening took place on March 25 at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, when Captain Barry Gifford, R.A.F., acted as proxy for the Ranees, who was unable to attend owing to illness.

Beneath portraits of Mr. A. Duff Cooper, who admitted at a dinner in London that he had been called "The Owen Mares of the Conservative Party," and Mr. F. G. Penny, the member for Kingston-on-Thames, who has been declared the handsomest and best-dressed man in the House, the "Evening Standard" says that Mr. Penny was voted the most popular M.P. by its women readers.

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Sport Columns
LAWN TENNIS.
HONDA FIGHTS WAY TO FINAL.
FINCHER'S GOOD FIGHT.

The first of the semi-finals in the Open Championship Singles was played yesterday when Honda met and defeated "Teddy" Fincher. The final scores in favour of the Japanese were 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4 and 6-4.

Honda started in convincing style and had little difficulty in securing the first set though the ground was more suited to Fincher's style of play. The latter, however, appeared uncomfortable and was rather erratic. He managed to secure the first game but not till after deuce was called six times. Honda took the next four with comparative ease but lost the next, only to claim the seventh and eighth games and the set at 6-2.

The second set proved to be more even—Fincher settling down, and each won his own service game till Fincher broke through his opponent's service in the tenth game and took the set at 6-4. During the earlier stages of this set both players were inclined to play a net-game, but later they took to baseline play, when some neat exchanges were in evidence. Fincher's "chop" strokes being most effective.

Honda appeared to be tiring in the first two games. The standard of play now was not as high as it was earlier on—Fincher, playing a steady game, was content to let the Japanese make all the mistakes. He led at 4-3 but Honda levelled matters at 4 games all on his own service. However, Fincher asserted himself and took the next two and set—6-4.

The first game in the fourth set went to Honda, but Fincher took the next three. With a 3-1 lead Fincher fell off and the Japanese, playing a good game, managed to pull the game out of the fire and won the set after only 10 games had been played.

Long rallies and baseline driving were the order of the day in the final set, and after losing the first game Honda "got going" and took the next three. Not to be outdone, Fincher took the fifth and sixth games but lost the next, the score now being 4-3 against him. Honda increased his lead by taking the eighth, and excitement ran high when Fincher won the ninth game. That, however, proved to be his final effort, for the Japanese forced the tenth game, which he won, and with it the set and match.

Fincher had bad luck in losing, especially after he had the lead of 2 sets to one and was 3-1 up in the fourth set. He played a very good game against a more experienced man and it is generally believed that more will be heard about him in the tennis world. Honda is to be congratulated on winning an uphill fight and he was given many anxious moments by his younger opponent. He now meets the winner of today's game between S. A. Rumjahn (the holder) and Ng Szo-kwong (ex-champion) when an excellent game should be seen.

L.R.C. CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES.

Following is the result of the first round:

Mrs. Womack beat Mrs. Phister, 6-1, 6-3.

Mrs. Grove (bye).

Mrs. James beat Mrs. D. Browne 6-1, 7-5.

The results of the second round are as follow:

Mrs. Womack beat Mrs. Grove 6-4, 5-7, 8-6.

Mrs. Tottenham beat Mrs. James 6-0, 6-0.

The finals will be played on April 27; the contestants being Mrs. Womack and Mrs. Tottenham.

SWEEP FORGERIES.
'WARE SHANGHAI "A" TICKETS.

We understand that the attention of Shanghai race officials has been drawn to the fact that forged "A" Sweep Tickets have been offered for sale and that the forged tickets produced so far are in the series 24,600 upwards.

TODAY'S FOOTBALL.

To-day's match in the Hong Kong League, Division I, will be between the China Athletic and the Kowloon Football Club, played on the Hong Kong Football Club ground, kick off at 5 p.m. Mr. Barber will referee.

LOCAL HOCKEY.

The H.K. Hockey Club 2nd team, were defeated by the 8/15th Punjabis by three goals to nil at King's

DOG-RACING.
UNFETTERED VOTE IN THE HOUSE.
INVESTORS WARNED.

Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, told a deputation from the National Emergency Committee of Christian Churches at the House of Commons that, if it were possible, the Government would give facilities for Colonel Buchan's bill to empower municipalities to control or veto greyhound racing tracks. The decision, he added, must rest with Parliament, which would be allowed to give a free and unfettered vote.

Sir William, who said he had been "very much impressed" by the representations made and by the feeling which prevailed, also observed: "I have prepared a bill dealing with a very large number of matters connected with children, and included in it is a clause dealing with betting by juveniles. That will enable us to clear out one great evil."

"I am going to repeat what I said to a deputation of members of Parliament in December," said Sir William, "that I warned all those engaged in the promotion of other companies that they would do so with the knowledge that the Government might feel it necessary to legislate in the matter."

"All the time I have been Home Secretary, and all the time I have been in Parliament, I have never received a more important or more representative deputation. It deals with a matter which goes right down to the roots of government in this country."

"Your case is on two grounds. The first is the right of the people in a locality to decide whether or not they shall have a greyhound track in their midst. The other is, that in connection with all these tracks there is a very large element indeed of gambling and betting, and that the young people of the country are being taught practically habits of gambling and betting. To test the feelings of the Commons I suggested to Colonel Buchan that he should introduce a private bill, and there was not a voice raised against it in the House of Commons."

"I hear that a memorial has been signed by more than 800 members of Parliament asking the Prime Minister to afford time for the progress of this bill, and the Government are bound to be impressed by it."

"I am very much impressed by the feeling that I know is well-nigh universal, that the municipalities of our great towns and the councils of our urban districts should have the right at least to some kind of say as to whether these institutions should be promoted."

The Bishop of Lichfield described greyhound racing as a travesty of sport and a most insidious and growing evil. Dr. Cyril Norwood, Headmaster of Harrow, on behalf of teachers in elementary schools, said that there would be no interest in greyhound racing except for gambling.

The Rev. Henry Carter, secretary of the National Emergency Committee of Christian Churches, said nine city councils, thirty-five town councils, eleven committees of town councils, and fifty-seven urban district councils had passed resolutions requesting the Government to promote legislation on the lines of Colonel Buchan's bill.

PING-PONG.
S.C.A.A. SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP.

Playing in the semi-finals, Ko Yau-cheong defeated Mak Kai-hung, 4-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, and Kwan Man-ching defeated Wong Tung-hol, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, thus qualifying for the final, which will be played off on the evening of the 26th inst. at the Clun premises, China Building.

The result of the latter match was a surprise to those present, but Kwan Man-ching played a sterner game and outclassed Wong Tung-hol, last year's champion of the Association and runner-up of the Colony's open singles tournament.

Fixtures for the Handicaps Tournament will be drawn up some time this week, all matches commencing at 7.30 p.m. each evening.

LOCAL BASEBALL.

An all-Hong Kong baseball team were defeated by the "Daimai" (a collection of Japanese players who are passing through the Colony) yesterday by 13 runs to 2.

Nearly 200 men have entered for the South China Command military sports which are now being held at

SOCCER SECRETS.
WHEN BALL SHOULD TRAVEL BACK.

[By Fred Kean.]

Two things have combined to inspire this article. Firstly, a few weeks ago, a spectator criticised a forward who passed the ball back to his half back. He shouted that the forward was kicking in the wrong direction. Secondly, I have often been asked which is the best move in football.

It may be wondered where these two incidents can be bracketed together.

Though it is difficult to pick out the best move in football, I am of the opinion that the very pass criticised, answers the second problem.

The pass back from forward to half-back, when properly worked, is of the greatest advantage, and especially is this so when the ball is raised from the centre forward to the centre-half.

It is not often that you see a centre forward try to turn around with the ball, when he has his back towards the goal which he is attacking, for in turning around he is very often dispossessed by the opposing centre-half. If he kicks the ball back, he has no need to worry about the opponent, and he can then get into position until his colleague at half back can give him a return pass. The movement is more central than either the old capital of Kweliin or the present capital of Nanning.

Sir Robert also informed our representative that there was a probability of Kwangsi's capital at some not very far off date becoming Liuchow, which is more central than either the old capital of Kweliin or the present capital of Nanning.

Kwangsi, added Sir Robert in answer to a question, seemed to have been steadily engaged during the past few years in this admirable project of motor road building.

Central Bank's Currency.

Again assuring the "China Mail's" representative that he will as soon as possible impart details of his proposed financial negotiations with Marshal Li, Sir Robert Ho Tung—always a very busy man—brought the interview to a polite conclusion, not before he had remarked (in answer to our representative's query) that the rise in the Central Bank's currency while he was in Canton was very encouraging. Taken all round, there are indications of Canton's general stability and of its prosperity in the near future.

"Give it up—the bookie always wins." This advice, given by Rev. James Stephenson, vicar of Dorman's Land, Surrey, in a sermon on a recent Sunday, is thought to have been taken by members of the congregation, for when the church was cleaned a number of betting slips were found in a pew. The vicar said in his sermon: "Blushes of racing tips, and every one a winner! It is a fool's game. Men put money on horses that they ought to be putting on the backs of their family—and they expect to win. They might win now and again, but the bookie is the only man who makes money out of it. It is his living. To the young people the vicar said: "If you have started to bet, stop it at once, because it may lead you into crime. Greyhound racing is not a sport; it is simply a mechanical dodge."

—the back pass from the forward to half, and the cross pass from centre half to wing half—are the most useful in football. I know full well that they do not seem to be heading the right way towards the goal, and where possible straight-forward methods are best, but if you watch players who use these methods you will soon see how they open attacks.

Perhaps the best centre half to watch for the cross pass is Frank Barson, the Manchester United centre half. Few will disagree with me when I say that there are not many tricks of football that this player does not know. He uses this one more than any other.

To see the back pass from centre half exploited to its full, you should watch "Dixie" Dean of Everton. The art of getting goals is getting into position, and Dean does this really well. He slips the ball back but that is the last he worries until it returns to him. He never holds the ball a fraction of a second longer than is necessary. The same applies to Trotter, of my own club, he passes the ball back to me and I try to give it back when he is unattended.

Another player, this time an inside left, is Gillespie of Sheffield United. It is a pleasure to see the way in which he sends the ball back to Green George for the half-back to slip it along to Tunstall, who is the nightmare of wing halves, because he gets into position so quickly.

You may have heard a lot of talk about the triangle play of a wing half. I like this pass when the ball is in the air; instead of heading the circular form of play, and I am certain, to the wing half. When that is nothing more than you head it straight forward you get into position so quickly.

Whether it is a forward, half-back or even full-back, the back pass is one of the secrets of suc-

CANTON'S NOTES.
(Continued from Page 1.)

General Wang expects about 7,000 li (2,100 miles) will be ready. Some of these roads have been constructed by private individuals, who get a certain number of years' licences from the Government, for which privilege they maintain the roads. Most of the roads have been constructed by the Government, and for their use and maintenance a toll charge is levied. They are in populous parts of the province, and obviously are bound to add to the commercial prosperity as well as the comfort of all.

Motor Cars and Buses.

At present Kwangsi has some 500 motor cars and buses and obviously the province is in this respect a shining example to Kwangtung, which is also making great efforts to build good roads in the interior.

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Small House Dearest.

As soon as a hint of trade depression is in the wind the householder decides that it would be better to find quarters to take the place equally well of the spacious high-ceilinged residence reminiscent of the tropics, which connoted Shanghai of the past. The questions of coal, servants and general upkeep enter into this decision and the small house wins easily.

But the economic inevitabilities are set in motion forthwith and the demand for the desired article makes it costly. Thus it is that during the past five years, small houses suitable for foreign residences have increased in their rentals from 10 to 15 per cent. In the same connection, a local land firm declares that rents for the old-fashioned large dwelling have remained practically at a standstill during the period.

Another firm of estate agents dating from early days in Shanghai and having a wide experience with transitions here says that during five years rents have increased 50 per cent for foreign dwellings. The same increase applies to land. It should, however, be borne in mind that both rentals and land values vary greatly in different districts of the town.

Just as anything which markedly affects the foreign scale of living affects the Chinese and vice versa, mounting rents in Shanghai have not been confined to the foreign community. Chinese in the streets and March of this year showed a somewhat more favourable balance, the price quoted being \$12.12 per picul.

Clothes are another reason "why we can't save in Shanghai."

Whatever their importance, in the scheme of things, on is inclined to suspect that somebody is profit-seeking somewhere. Even the Chinese tailor has reacted to the raised level of prices during the past five years. Labour conditions and the other economic motives which could provide accurate reasons for the high cost of manufacturing wearing material are, again, material for the statistician.

Dress and the Stocking.

But one need not look far to find that, for example, imported georgette which, five years ago, sold for \$2.95 a yard now sells for \$5. Broadcloth in 1914 was \$4.05 a yard. It is now about \$9.50. Fancy voiles which sold for \$1.25 a yard a few years back are in this year of grace, \$2.25. But these things do not influence unfavourably the fact that Shanghai is a city of well-dressed people.

The one wayward and encouraging item on the general list is the silk stocking. Comparatively, they are cheaper now than before the war when they were "best" instead of "every day and all the time." The increased demand has had a counterbalancing factor in prices in the methods of rival manufacturers who are constantly trying to give the public something a little cheaper than competitors can do. So that one must admit the silk stocking has lived up to expectations in every way.

Entertainments and Transport.

In considering all those miscellaneous items which unremittingly endeavour to defeat our best intentions towards economy, one must reflect dolefully on the fact that "dining out" habits, so luridly painted by foreign correspondents, are undoubtedly on the increase still after having been on the increase for the past decade. With

A thought to warm the heart of the most outraged family budget is provided by the unassuming stability of Lee & Perrin's Worcester Sauce. This interesting accessory to the palate's demands has not been so obliging as 40 per cent dearer than a few years ago, not to mention the high prices of other necessary adjuncts to a Shanghai evening party, further insight can be gained of where money goes in Shanghai of to-day.

Cheeses, especially Rochfort and Gorgonzola, have varied 25 to 30 per cent during the last four years. The average price of best

cheese has gone up from \$1 to \$1.30 a lb. and Ceylon tea from \$1 to \$1.85; American tinned fruits from \$6.50 a dozen to \$10.50 and best English jams are 60 to 80 per cent dearer.

Transportation costs, too, have not only increased in a few years but as more and more transportation is required for growing Shanghai another item is debited to "miscellaneous." For the Chinese,

Australian hams have varied slightly not at all during the period, but "York cut" hams, which are in the past five years, and anyone who has seen the astute bargaining between a prospective Chinese "fare" and a "ricochet" needs no advice as to which side the mantle

of victory will fall on. An adamanite rice-cooker is thinking of the stupifying price he must pay for rice-chow.

The same prevailing prevalence of

COST OF LIVING.
HOW MATTERS STAND IN SHANGHAI.
SOME COMPARISONS.

The high cost of living is a perennial hardship in the average man's garden. In this respect, Shanghai is not an exception to the general rule, as is shown in a recent survey of how much less one's dollar is capable of buying than formerly, says the "N.C. D. News."

To go into this matter with any claim to completeness would be a feat for the experienced statistician, but a few facts gathered at random locally, will serve to show some of the inadequacies of money

year by year.

Things making the largest inroads into the monthly income, according to the average Shanghai resident, are rents, provisions and clothes. Everything else can roughly be lumped under the heading of miscellaneous.

With rents



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KOWLOON WHARF. HUNG CHEONG—(Kowloon).

FASHIONS AND FANCIES

THE SPRING COSTUME.

Novelty Marks Both the Silhouette and the Fabric of the Newest Daytime Ensembles.



Despite the general trend towards flutteringly feminine dresses, Paris has here and there retained a genuine simplicity of line that bespeaks a tailored influence. It is especially noted in sports and street dresses of woolen for the springtime.

For instance, many of the one-piece dresses are worn with jackets. These are naturally of a tailored type. Checked or plaid woollens are often a smart feature of these daytime ensembles. Velveteens, too, are seen in many strikingly designed costumes. Colours are important, of course, and many of the shades most favoured in spring dresses are seen combined in the plaids, stripes or checks.

Suits, for instance, coming under the tailored list of spring clothes, are shown mostly in woollens with checks, cross bar effects, mixtures and blocks being particularly selected.

In the two-piece dresses of a tailored design the blouse and skirt are being shown in different materials with smart results.

Doris Kenyon, appearing in an interesting role in First National's picture, "The Valley of the Giants," has opportunity to wear some unusual clothes. One costume which shows a springtime inspiration is smartly made in two pieces. The blouse is of red, green and yellow plaid velveteen. A feature of the blouse is the trimming of buttons—a feature that will distinguish many of the spring costumes. Red cherries, too, are an attractive decoration at the shoulder. The skirt of black velvet affords an attractive contrast.

FASHIONS FROM PARIS.

Paris.—The last of the great "couturieres" to show a new collection to the representatives of the press was Mme. Jeanne Lanvin and this collection coming at the close of a strenuous three weeks of fashion openings provided one of the real thrills of the season. Mme. Lanvin is essentially a creator of the modes, she follows no prescribed lines, on the other hand, she evolves, season after season, original designs which are absolutely unique and individual.

For quite some years the name of Mme. Lanvin has been associated in the minds of American women with wondrous "robes de style" (known in America as "perilous dresses") of taffeta and tulle with bouffant skirts, quaint

BATHING SUITS AND ACCESSORIES.

Among the Important Items for the South and Our Own Summer Season Are Listed Beach Costumes of Distinction.



There are always two distinct beach costumes packed into the bag that goes to the seaside whether it be in July or in January. For the spectator costume is distinctly different from the actual swimming suit. This year the difference is quite marked.

The feminine swimmer these days goes in for style, too. There is real distinction in the active swimmer's suit. They are generally made in two pieces, the top being cut quite low. The trunks are attached to an under bodice possessing narrow bands at the shoulder, but cut extremely low to the waist in fact, at the back. The colour combinations mark an interesting point in these suits. Dark trunks and light tops are most usual in combinations of colours. Here and there an all-one suited suit is seen. Navy blue, grey, dark brown, red and green are the dominating shades seen. Here and there a yellow or orange defines the mode for darker shades and makes a flaming appearance.

Beach suits, on the other hand, made to attract attention on the sands, show small printed silks highly in favour. They are designed after the new dress styles, principally. Unusual necklines, long waists and pleated skirts are

featured. The shorts show just beneath the skirt. The entire arm is generally exposed but in some cases a short cape is used.

Smart capes and coats are used to accompany all suits. With the figured dress suits plain capes lined with figured or contrastingly coloured fabrics are seen. Monograms or designs worked on the outside are a feature of the beach wraps. Cretonne or printed linen coats are again being seen.

Accessories that play so important a role on the beach include many striking novelties this year.

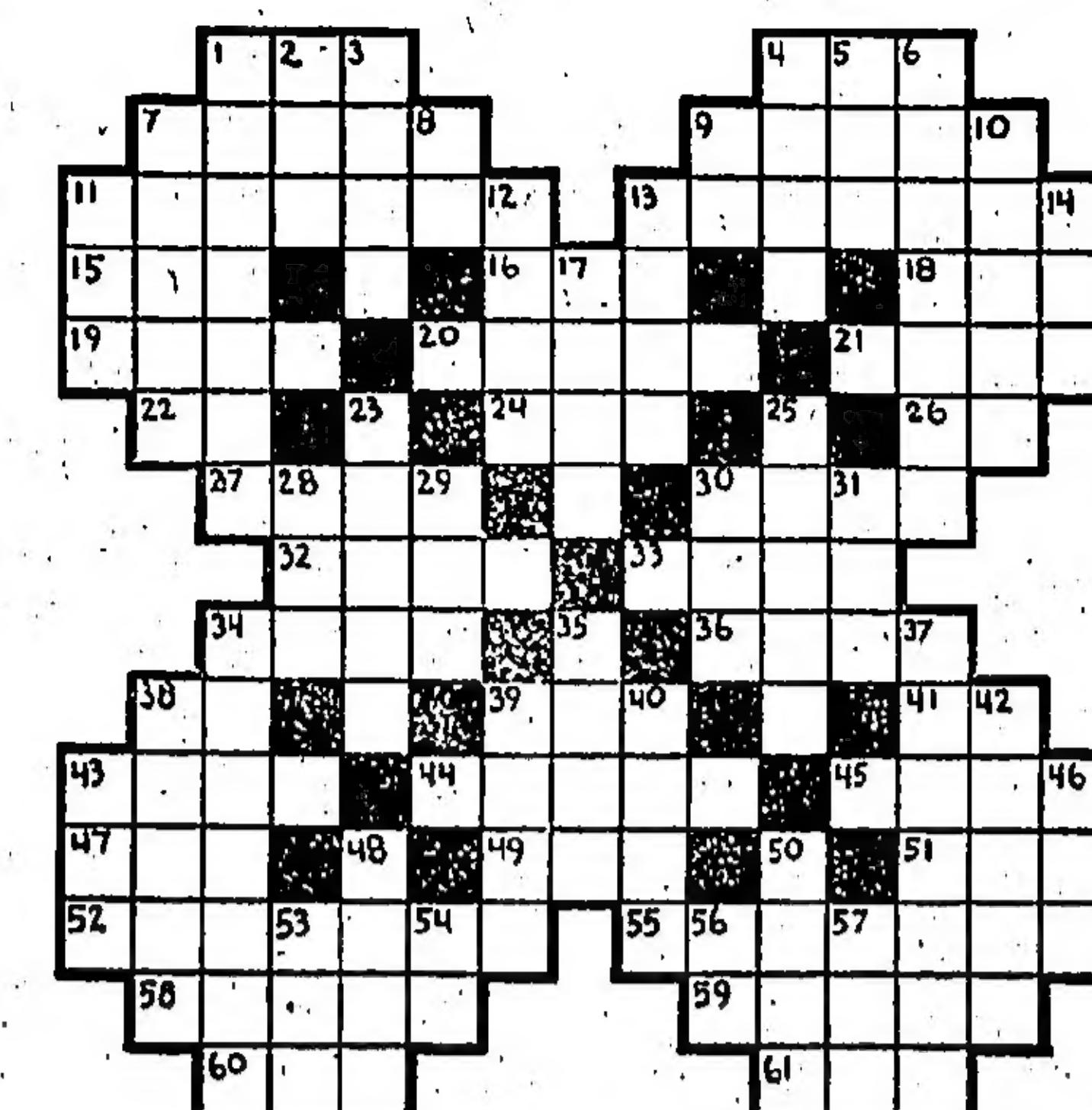
Bandanas and caps of rubber, rubberized pocketbooks, bags, striking umbrellas, sandals designed after the Chinese manner, kerchiefs and scarfs all come under this heading.

Girdles, brassieres and garters all come in fabrics suited to the salt water bathing and are comfortably as well as becomingly designed.

Virginia Lee Corbin, First National feature player, has plenty of opportunities to wear bathing costumes at Southern California beaches. Miss Corbin, for real swimming, wears two-piece bathing costume smartly combining navy blue and white, and another made entirely in beige tones. Colourful caps and accessories supply the desired colour note.

DAILY CROSS-WORD PUZZLE.

(This cross-word puzzle has been made by an expert but our readers are warned to look out for occasional phonetic spellings, such as harbor, plow, and altho.)



© THE INTERNATIONAL SYNDICATE.

HORIZONTAL

- 1-Pastry
- 4-Mineral spring
- 7-Tint
- 8-Waste lands (of Brit.)
- 11-Brawl
- 13-Separating
- 15-An age
- 16-Article
- 18-A place for live animals
- 19-Stew
- 20-Twenty
- 21-A kind of wine
- 22-Postscript (abbr.)
- 24-Of high temperature
- 26-Point of the compass (abbr.)
- 27-Exactly like another
- 30-Supposition
- 32-A covering for the head
- 33-A pond
- 34-Young horse
- 36-Stupid (slang)
- 38-Exclamation
- 39-A flap
- 41-Suffic. Pertaining to.
- 43-To sharpen
- 44-One who bakes

HORIZONTAL (Cont.)

- 45-Fluent
- 47-Not in
- 49-Know (Scotch)
- 51-Non-professional
- 52-Bugbear
- 53-To assert positively
- 55-A bilow
- 56-A plant of the mustard family
- 58-A grain
- 61-Consumes
- 62-Cook
- 63-Girl's name
- 65-To scoff at
- 67-Interrogative pronoun
- 69-In no manner
- 71-A kind of tree
- 73-Outline
- 75-Track left by vessels passing thru water
- 77-On ships to maintain equilibrium
- 78-Period of time (pl.)
- 79-To secure
- 80-Curve
- 82-Prevaricators
- 83-Jump on one foot
- 84-Run scored at cricket
- 85-Chief magistrate of old Venice
- 86-A measure of land
- 87-To look into closely
- 88-Point of the compass (abbr.)
- 89-Prefix meaning out of
- 90-A grassy field

VERTICAL (Cont.)

- 23-Girl's name
- 25-To scoff at
- 28-Interrogative pronoun
- 29-In no manner
- 30-A seed-capsule
- 31-A kind of tree
- 34-Outline
- 35-Track left by vessels passing thru water
- 37-On ships to maintain equilibrium
- 38-Period of time (pl.)
- 39-To secure
- 40-Curve
- 42-Prevaricators
- 43-Jump on one foot
- 44-Run scored at cricket
- 45-Chief magistrate of old Venice
- 46-A measure of land
- 47-To look into closely
- 48-Point of the compass (abbr.)
- 49-Say
- 50-A grassy field

(The solution of the above cross-word puzzle will appear in to-morrow's issue along with a new cross-word puzzle.)

HONGKONG HEIGHTS

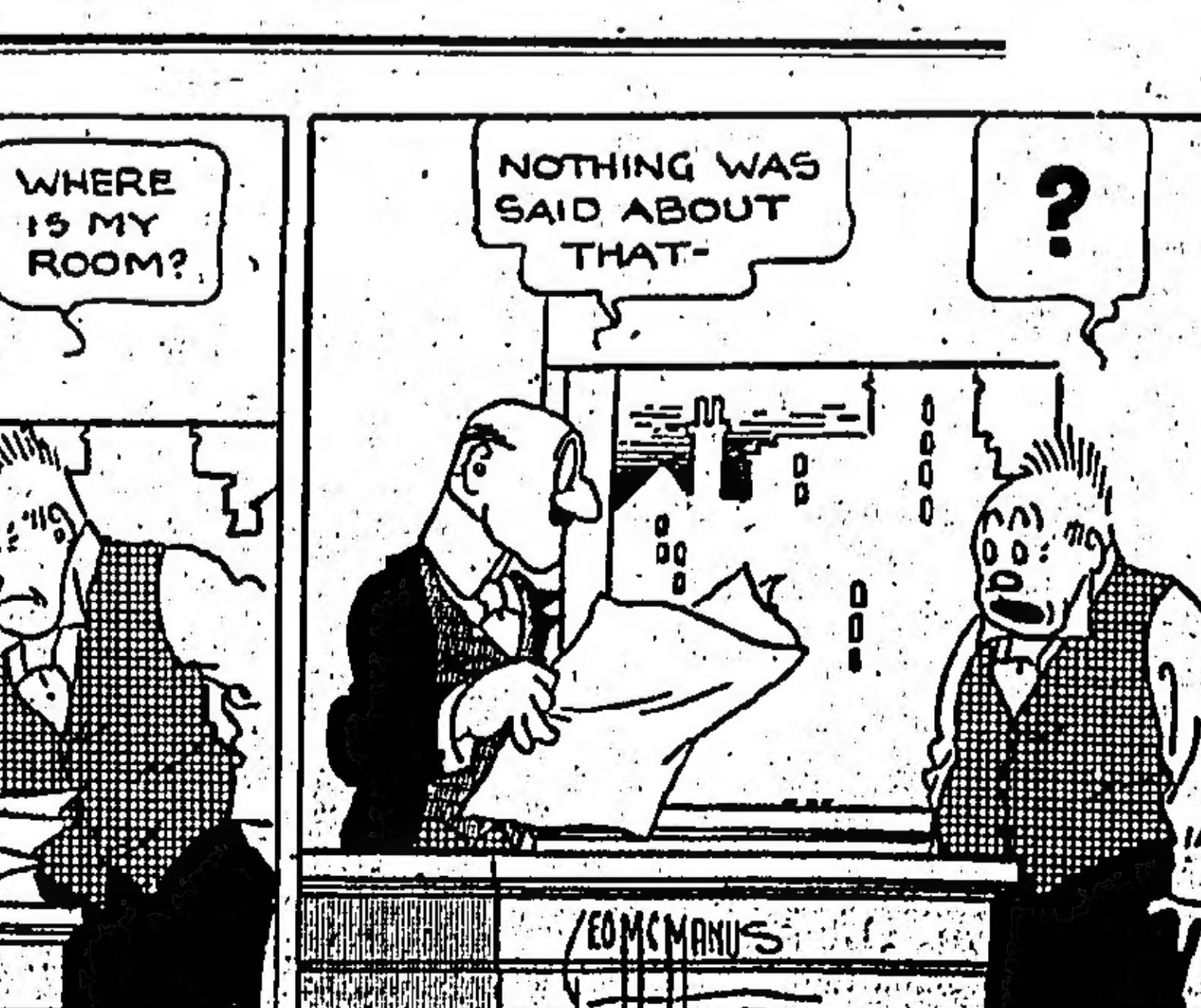
For the information of visitors the following list of some of the highest points on the Island and Mainland is published:

	Island.	Feet.
Victoria Peak	1823	
Signal Station	1774	
Mt. Parker	1734	
Mountain Lodge	1725	
The Eyre	1725	
Peak Hotel	1805	
Tai Foo Sanatorium	1000	
Mt. Davis	877	
Bowen Rd. (filterbeds)	297	
Taimoshan	8124	
Kowloon Peak	1971	

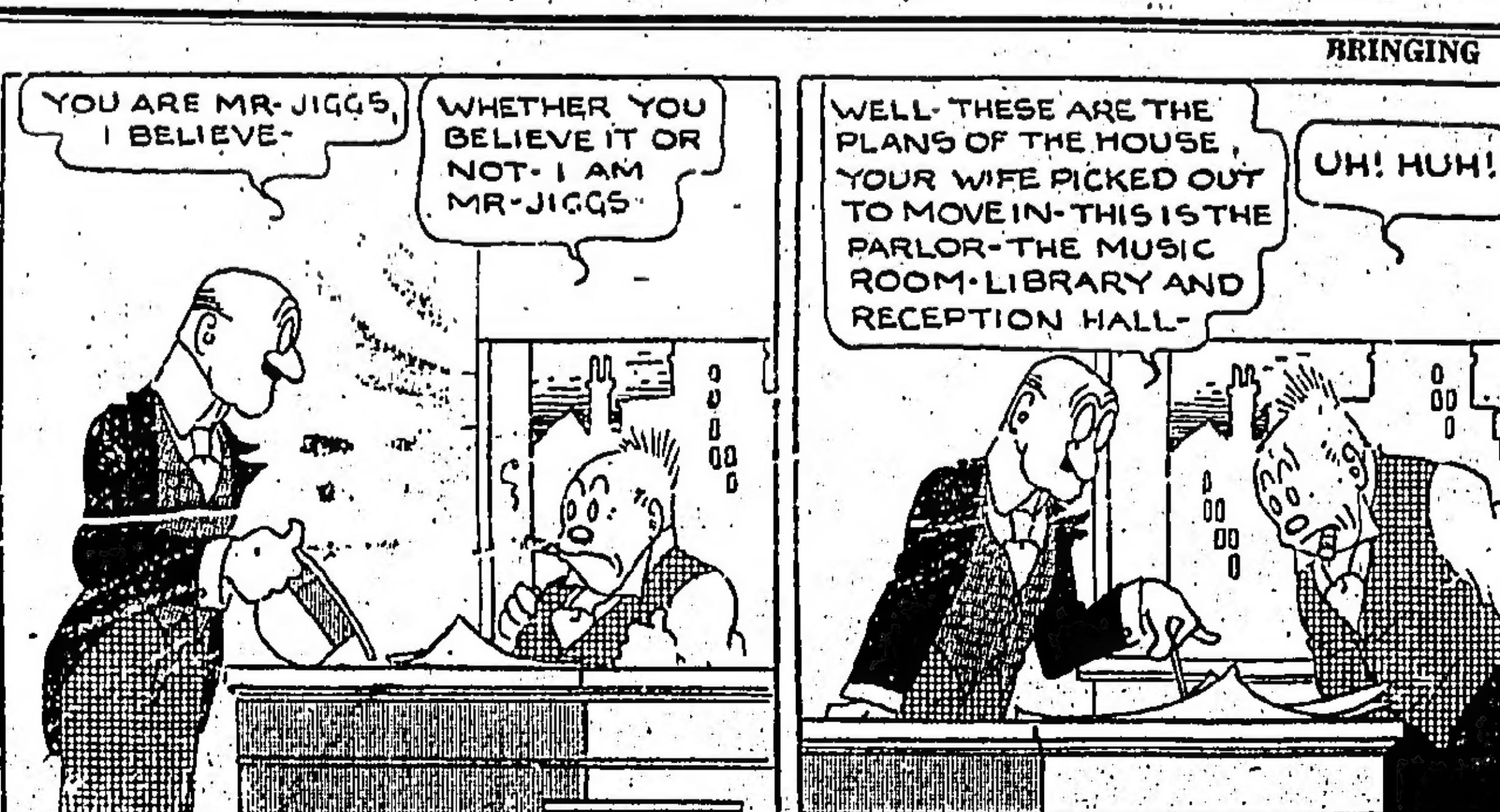


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ARAB KING.

BROKEN CONDITIONS.

In the House of Commons the recent events and British relations with King Ibn Saud formed the subject of a number of questions to Ministers.

Mr. Amery (Secretary for the Colonies), replying to Sir W. Davison (U., Kensington, S.), stated that the total cost to the British Government of the subsidies paid to King Ibn Saud during the years 1917 to 1923 was approximately £542,000. No subsidy whatever was paid before the year 1917 or after the year 1923. The subsidy was given in the first instance in consideration of assistance in the war against Turkey. The later payments were made subject to the following conditions, namely:

(1) That Ibn Saud refrained, and restrained his adherents, from aggressive action against the Hejaz, Kuwait, and Irak.

(2) That he afforded co-operation in the matter of the Haj (pilgrimage to Mecca) by maintaining the safety of pilgrim routes to his territory.

(3) That he consented to be guided generally by the wishes of His Majesty's Government in regard to his foreign policy, and to co-operate with them in promoting their own policy, which had for its object the maintenance of peaceful conditions in Arab countries and the promotion of the economic interests of both parties.

Sir W. Davison: Is there any arrangement for the repayment of this large sum of money in the event of the agreement not being kept?

Mr. Amery: No, sir.
Offer of a Conference.

Replying to Mr. Buxton (Lab.-Soc., Norfolk, North), Mr. Amery said there was no evidence that Ibn Saud was directly responsible for the recent raids by Akhwan tribes into Irak territory, which, however, it would be scarcely correct to describe as an invasion.

His Majesty's Government had been in frequent communication with King Ibn Saud. As long ago as last December they suggested that a meeting should be arranged at a convenient spot between his Majesty and the British Resident in the Persian Gulf to discuss any matter in dispute. That suggestion had been repeated several times since, but the King had not so far seen fit to avail himself of the opportunity offered him for a

full discussion of outstanding questions.

Mr. Buxton: Is diplomatic contact chiefly maintained at Bagdad or at Cairo?

Mr. Amery: It is maintained chiefly at Ibn Saud's own headquarters, but there are also opportunities of diplomatic contact at Cairo.

Lieut.-Comdr. Kenworthy (Lab.-Soc., Hull, Central): Is the right hon. gentleman aware that the Wahabis declare that the first raids came from our side of the frontier, and will he have the matter thoroughly investigated? Further, is he aware that this is the national sport of the tribes in that part of the world, and their only sport? (Laughter.)

Mr. Amery was understood to say that he was not aware that that was their only sport, and added that he had made investigations in this matter, and they did not confirm the view that the raids had been begun on the Irak side of the frontier.

Lieut.-Comdr. Kenworthy: It is probably six of one and half a dozen of the other.

No Troops From India.

Mr. Amery informed Captain Eden (U., Warwick and Leamington) regarding the raids by Wahabi tribesmen that he could add nothing to his reply of March 8. He should like to correct a statement in the Press to the effect that troops had been sent from India to Kuwait in connection with the difficulties in Irak. There was not a word of truth in that statement. He had no confirmation of the report that Ibn Saud had declared a Holy War, or that he had identified himself in any way with such a movement. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Amery: Better than Powder and Rouge for the Complexion PINKETTES

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ARTIST'S PROTEST.

HIS BANNED PICTURE OF NUDES.

THE GRUNDIANS.

A long-standing subject of controversy—the suitability of exhibiting in public galleries pictures of the nude—has been revived by the banning of Mr. Ernest Procter's picture "The Judgment of Paris," by the curator of the Northampton Art Gallery, Mr. Reginald W. Brown.

The picture, which was recently exhibited at Birmingham, shows the shepherd Paris, who, in the Greek legend, was called on to award a golden apple to the fairest of the three goddesses, Aphrodite, Hera, and Athena. The three goddesses, nude, are seen awaiting the shepherd's judgment.

Mr. Procter's Position.

Mr. Brown has refused to discuss his decision and Mr. Procter writes as follows to "The Daily Mail":

Sir.—Mr. Brown's ban on my picture at Northampton has received so much publicity that I feel it necessary to state my position.

The pictures at Northampton have been publicly exhibited in London, and many of them reproduced in the Press, without any adverse comment. The question at issue is, therefore, not of the individual indecency of these pictures, but of the intrinsic indecency of the human figure.

Mr. Brown and his Grundian supporters consider God guilty of immorality—I do not. If Mr. Brown is right, every public collection in England should be immediately closed or purged of practically all Egyptian, Greek, and Indian art, and of most of the old European masters.

Mr. Brown's attitude has reduced sculpture in England to a dead art and driven such men as Mr. Epstein from the country. It induces people to look at pictures as anything but art. Over and above this he even refuses to give his reasons, and I would point out that this is personally damaging to me. Parents will think twice before allowing their children to attend an art class run by a painter of "banned" pictures, while the clergy can scarcely be expected to select me as a suitable church decorator.

Ernest Procter.

Mr. Procter's picture was exhibited at the summer exhibition of the Royal Academy at Burlington House last year.

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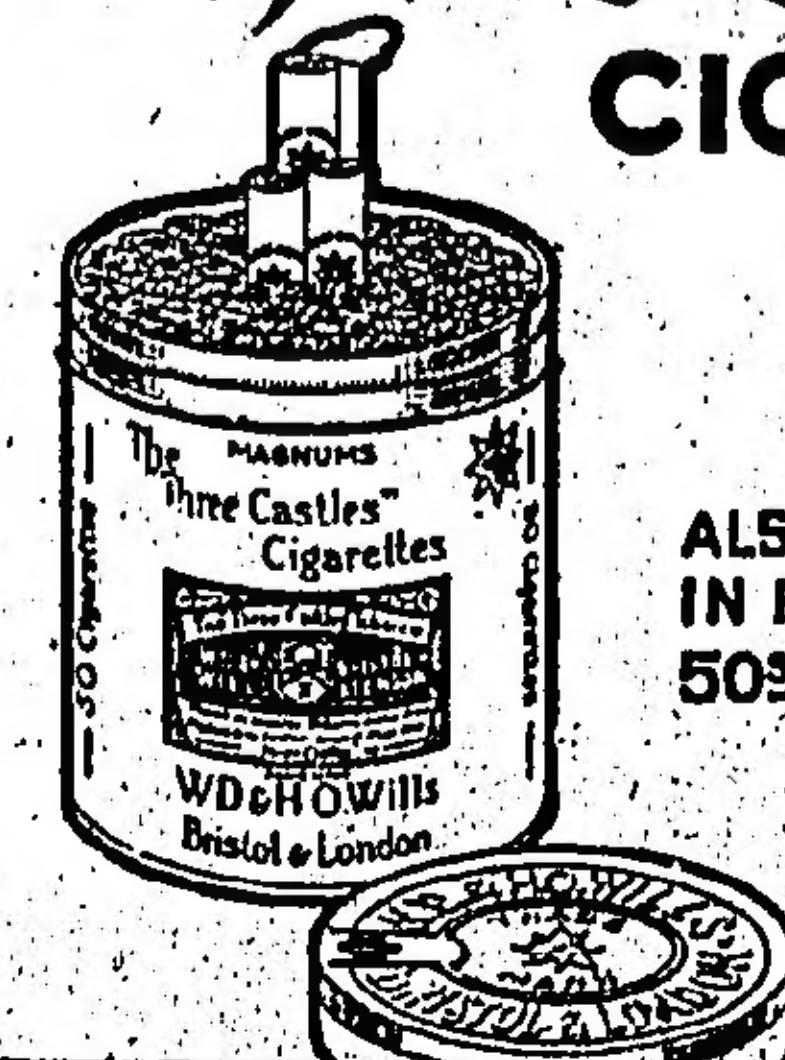
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 "PATROCLUS" 10th May Marseilles, London, Rotterdam, Glasgow & Hull
 "MENE AUS" 20th May Marseilles, London, Rotterdam & Hamburg

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"ORESTES" 20th May Genoa, Havre, Liverpool & Glasgow.
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"KORE & YOKOHAMA" 12th May Victoria, Vancouver & Seattle
 "TAI THIBUS" 31st May Victoria, Vancouver & Seattle
 "TEUCER" 31st May Victoria, Vancouver & Seattle

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Rates and further particulars on application to the Radio Counter, 1st Floor, Government Building.

Telegraphic Addresses—Persons and firms having correspondents in the places named above should in order to avoid delay to telegrams received by radio register their telegraphic address immediately.

INWARD MAIIS.

From	Per
THURSDAY, APRIL 26.	
Shanghai	Sinkiang
Shanghai	Yingchow
Canada, U.S.A., Japan and Shanghai	Empress of Russia
Straits and Calcutta	Fooskang
Europe via Suez, Letters and Paper, London	
29th Mar., and parcels, 22d Mar.	Malwa
Shanghai	Yingchow
SATURDAY, APRIL 28.	
Straits	Yuen Sang
SUNDAY, APRIL 29.	
Canada, U.S.A., Japan and Shanghai	Pres. McKinley
SATURDAY, MAY 5.	
U.S.A., Honolulu, Japan and Shanghai	Pres. Monroe
MONDAY, MAY 7.	
Australia and Manila	Tanda

OUTWARD MAIIS.

For	Per	
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26.		
Sam Shui and Wuchow	Kong Ning	4.30 p.m.
THURSDAY, APRIL 26.		
Formosa	Benreoch	10.30 a.m.
Bangkok	Heng Chong	10.30 a.m.
Amoy and Foochow via Swatow	Hai Ning	11 a.m.
Swatow	Hydwanen	2.30 p.m.
Tourane	Chungkong	2.30 p.m.
Saigon	Yuan Jeng	3.30 p.m.
Shanghai, Japan and Europe via Siberia	Malwa	3.30 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 27.		
Saigon and South Africa	La Plata Maru	10.30 a.m.
Amoy	Tjitaroem	2.30 p.m.
Straits and Calcutta, Parcels noon.		
Letters 1 p.m.	Kum Sang	
Manila	Empress of Russia	3.30 p.m.
Shanghai	Sinkiang	5 p.m.
Amoy	Fook Sang	5 p.m.
Straits, Ceylon, India, Mauritius, E. & S. Africa, Egypt and Europe via Marseilles—due Marseilles, 25th May. K.P.O. Parcels 4.30 p.m. Registration (Apr. 28th) 9 a.m. Letters (Apr. 28th) 10 a.m. G.P.O. Parcels 5 p.m. Registration (Apr. 28th) 9.45 a.m. Letters 10.30 a.m.	Moresa	
SATURDAY, APRIL 28.		
Sandakan	Hinsang	2.30 p.m.
Amoy	Yum Sang	5 p.m.

*Correspondence bearing vessel's name only.

SHIPPING DEAL.

Commonwealth Line Purchased.

"WHITE STAR'S" OFFER.

£1,900,000 Accepted By Australian Federal Govt.

Canberra, Yesterday. The Federal Government has accepted Lord Kylsant's tender to purchase the Commonwealth Line for £1,900,000 sterling.

The Australian Commonwealth Line, which Lord Kylsant is acquiring from the Government, comprises five "Bay" passenger cargo vessels, each of 14,000 tons gross, and two cargo vessels of 10,000 tons each.

Union Opposition.

Anticipations in Australia that Lord Kylsant would be the successful tenderer have aroused opposition in the maritime workers unions, who believe that conditions of employment will be adversely altered. They have threatened to declare all vessels controlled by Lord Kylsant "black."

The New Name.

Lord Kylsant, interviewed by Reuter, said he was gratified to hear that the Commonwealth Government had accepted the tender he had submitted on behalf of the White Star Line. He pointed out that he was already interested in the Australian shipping trade, not only through the White Star, but the century old Aberdeen Line. He declared that the new service will be conducted under the latter's flag, and will be called the Aberdeen and Commonwealth Line.

Other Tenderers.

Canberra, Later. Other tenderers were Sir Walter Runciman with £1,250,000 and Sir James Connolly, £1,575,000.—Reuter.

FRENCH "REDS."

UNSUCCESSFUL APPEAL AGAINST SENTENCE.

FOOLISH ARTICLE.

Paris, Yesterday. The appeal has been heard against the sentence in default of ten months' imprisonment and a fine of 1,000 francs for inciting soldiers to insubordination, passed on the Communist deputy Vailan Couturier in connection with an article published in *L'Humanité* on March 3, 1927, calling on French soldiers in China to fraternise with Chinese workers.

The appellant was present with a number of communists including Doriot. After evidence the conviction was upheld.—Reuter.

GREECE'S 'QUAKE.

CORINTH TOWN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED.

BRITISH NAVY HELPS.

Athens, Yesterday. Ministers who have returned from Corinth estimate the losses there at £800,000 sterling, and the total earthquake damage at £2,500,000. A correspondent states only fifty out of three thousand houses in Corinth are standing, and they are badly damaged. British sailors have rendered splendid service.

Twenty are dead and a hundred injured at Lutraki: the baths are not damaged.—Reuter.

ACROSS THE POLE.

AMERICA TO THE FAR EAST.

QUICKEST ROUTE.

New York, April 23. All Arctic explorers, including Commander Byrd and Stefansson declare that the Wilkins Flight confirms the theory that the best air route from America to the Far East would be across the North Pole.

It would be possible by the trans-Pole route to reduce the present distance from New York to Peking from ten thousand miles to seven thousand miles.

MR. E. RALPHS.

St. John Ambulance Presentation.

14 YEARS' SERVICE.

Tribute From Brigade Officers And Members.

Mr. E. Ralphs, Commander of the Order of St. John, the Assistant Commissioner (in charge of the district) for the district staff, Hong Kong Corps, of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was the recipient of a magnificent lacquer set-to-day from the officers and members of the Brigade on the occasion of his impending departure.

A tribute to his fourteen years of meritorious and voluntary service was paid by Mr. Ho Kom-tong, O.B.E., Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John, a District Officer in the Brigade.

Mr. Ralphs, however, insisted that it was he who should thank the officers and members for the high standard they had brought the Brigade to.

Representative Attendance.

Among those present at the function were Mr. A. Morris, A.C.F., M.R.S.A.I., District Superintendent; Mr. Ho Kom-tong; Dr. W. B. A. Moore and Dr. D. J. Valentine, Corps Surgeons; Mr. G. W. C. Burnett, Corps Officer; Mr. T. K. Chak, Corps Officer; Dr. M. Luk, Supernumerary Divisional Surgeon; Mr. Ip Lan-chuen, J.P., secretary of the Hong Kong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Brigade finance committee; Mr. I. B. Trevor, Divisional Superintendent, Kowloon-Canton Railway Division; Mr. C. H. Blason, Divisional Superintendent, Shaukiwan Division; Mr. E. Savage, Divisional Superintendent, Kowloon Division; Mr. Chao, St. Joseph's College Division; Miss Tsang Yiu-cheung, Nursing Officer, No. 2 Nursing Division, representing the Nursing Divisions.

Mr. Ho Kom-tong. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Ho Kom-tong said that on the occasion of the approaching departure of Mr. Ralphs, he deemed it a great pleasure and an honour to undertake the pleasant duty of making Mr. Ralphs a presentation which was only a grateful acknowledgment to Mr. Ralphs and services to the St. John Ambulance Brigade during the past fourteen years or more. The work of Mr. Ralphs had been appreciated more and more. It was only fitting that the officers and members should give him a token of the high esteem in which he was held. They took the opportunity to bid Mr. and Mrs. Ralphs and family au revoir, to wish him a pleasant voyage and a splendid holiday. (Prolonged applause).

Mr. Ralphs's Reply.

In reply, Mr. Ralphs said that it was very embarrassing to receive such a beautiful present as thanks ought really to go from him to all ranks in the St. John Ambulance Brigade. His work would have been quite futile, Mr. Ralphs continued, had it not been for the support given him by all, workmen and members should give him a token of the high esteem in which he was held. They took the opportunity to bid Mr. and Mrs. Ralphs and family au revoir, to wish him a pleasant voyage and a splendid holiday. (Prolonged applause).

Mr. Ho Kom-tong had referred to the period of service as four years, said Mr. Ralphs. It was about fourteen years ago—just at the beginning of the War—that Mrs. Ralphs and he became the first members, and then Dr. Koch joined. Work at first had been very difficult; very few knew anything about it and very few were willing to join.

"Success Assured."

Mr. Ralphs mentioned the great help Mr. Ho Kom-tong had given. Mr. Ho's nephew had joined and then other helpers came along; and hard work had made the Brigade a very fine corps. He was confident that they would keep the work going.

"I know when I say," Mr. Ralphs continued, "that when I go, the work will be carried on by Mr. Morris (who is taking my place) and that officers and members of all ranks will give him the same help which they so very kindly gave me."

"The success of the St. John Ambulance Brigade is assured."

CAMP TRAGEDY.

Service Man Shoots Himself.

AN ACCIDENT.

Automatic Pistol Goes Off Whilst Being Unloaded.

Able Seaman G. Othen, of 442 Flight, Fleet Air Arm, stationed at the Kai Tak Aerodrome, native of Dorsetshire and aged about 24 years, accidentally and fatally shot himself at five o'clock this morning in a cookhouse in the camp.

Othen had been employed on police duty in the camp and was unloading his Colt automatic when the weapon discharged a shot. He was wounded in the left breast just above the heart. Death occurred within a few minutes, for by the time a comrade who was in the kitchen with the deceased had returned with the camp doctor Othen had succumbed.

Othen was unmarried.

TEAPOT DOME.

THE AMERICAN PRESS SHOCKED.

PARTY CRITICISM.

New York, Yesterday. The Press is shocked at the acquittal of Harry Sinclair, and all papers comment strongly on the verdict. The Democratic "New York World" says the case can neither vindicate Sinclair morally, nor enhance the prestige of the United States jury system.

Sinclair had not attempted any self-vindication, nor appeared in the witness box, which an innocent man with a straightforward story would have done.

The Republican paper, the "Evening Post," says he was acquitted on technicalities, and declares that in the moral estimation of the country he stands where he did prior to the verdict; unless he has descended a few steps lower.—Reuter's American Service.

"TWO VILLAINS."

(Continued from Page 1.)

Plaintiff had been very successful in spite of his deafness, said Mr. Potter. The Fook Lee firm in Hillier-street—not to be confused with Fook Lee and Co., of York-building, which two of plaintiff's five sons started—was begun in the 'sixties or early 'seventies and plaintiff disposed of it in 1923.

Weakness or Fondness?

The source of all the trouble, Mr. Potter told the jury, was Fook Chun-yuen, one of the two sons in Fook Lee & Co., the other being Fook Tat-fui—whom Mr. Potter described as the "villains of the piece" and referred to as "the two Foks." There was another son who was compadre to Messrs. Simmons. For the latter the father (plaintiff) had stood guarantee and had had to make good \$27,000 losses.

Plaintiff was reluctant to come into Court and say that his son was a swindler. Accordingly, he had offered defendants \$125,000 in settlement, not wishing to take any advantage of what his son had done. However, Mr. Potter continued, defendants had taken the offer as a sign of weakness (in the plaintiff's case) and not a sign of fondness of a father for a son. The defendants insisted on \$165,000 in cash and a piece of property valued at about \$20,000, making \$175,000 in all, although the mortgage had only been for \$110,000.

Early History.

The father (plaintiff) had left his deeds in the safe of Fook Lee & Co., York Building, and everybody had a right to leave their deeds wherever they pleased, Mr. Potter added.

Mr. Potter then referred to the giving of a power of attorney by the plaintiff to his son, and the project of amalgamation between Fook Lee & Co. (the two sons' firm) and Messrs. Simmons (to which another son was compadre, guaranteed by the father).

Case proceeding.

And I shall treasure such a fine record of goodwill towards me and will keep it till the end of

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